# THE COMMONWEAL

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# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THAT practical political intentions played their part in causing President Roosevelt to lay his special message on "human security" before Congress, as many of his opponents loudly asserted, is not only true, but is another proof—if further proof is needed—of the fact that the leader of this nation is not merely a man of vision, but is very emphatically a man who works hard and shrewdly to realize his visions. As many observers point out, the sending of so important a message to Congress at the very end of a session, is unprecedented. The political reasons for such a step leap at once to the eye—so much so, indeed, that many critics can see nothing but these political objects. The President during the last half year and more has been the object of stronger and stronger attacks. There has been a powerful effort exerted to reenergize, and reorganize the Republican party in preparation for the autumn campaign, when the senators and representatives must face the ordeal of elections which will be indicative, in their results, of how far the President and his policies have lost, or held, or gained the support of the American people.

Obviously, the message will be eagerly and hotly discussed from now until the elections in November. The various candidates, whether those now holding office, or those seeking office, will be the keenest of all its students—for there can be no question of the fact that support or opposition to the principles laid down by the President will be the dominant issue of the elections, and of the policy of the new Congress issuing from the elections. That, politically speaking, the President is fully aware of these considerations, can be taken for granted. But it should also be even more clearly recognized that mere political expediency, however well justified and commendable, is a minor consideration to President Roosevelt. His major motive is greater and franker, and it animates every paragraph of his message with a spirit of statesmanship that is far superior to the ordinary spirit of party or personal political tactics.

For he firmly nails the flag of the New Deal to the mast of the Ship of State, which so far he has navigated with such success through the cyclone in which it began its course in 1932. It is still far from calm waters or a secure haven, but it is


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on its way—and it is flying a signal which infuriates all the opponents of its captain's policy, but which equally enheartens his best supporters. That signal is the passage from the message which reads: "It is childish to speak of recovery first and reconstruction afterward. In the very nature of the processes of recovery we must avoid the destructive influences of the past."

That first among the objectives of his program of reconstruction President Roosevelt places "the security of the men, women and children of the nation," as "the minimum of the promise that we can make to the American people," is a reaffirmation not only of his fundamental political philosophy, but it also sums up the meaning of that demonstration of continued belief in and support of the President which is so strikingly revealed by the *Literary Digest's* poll. For it is not merely what this President says that appeals to his people. Many statesmen and nearly all mere politicians utter unimpeachable sentiments, but few of them really labor to realize them, or are capable of doing so. But the American people have reason to know that there is a difference now. What is being said by the leader in the White House is being carried out in action.

That is why so many real Republicans—both leaders and voters—are so little concerned at present with purely partizan politics. For they too are convinced that reconstruction is more important, and far more practically achievable, than a recovery of what in itself is not even desirable, namely, a so-called prosperity which means, and always in the past has meant, only swollen wealth —or even stolen wealth—for a few, and economic and social insecurity and degrading poverty for the masses of the people.

A national social insurance system, designed to remove or at least greatly to alleviate the hazards of undeserved unemployment and the disabilities of age, is something which so strong a Republican as Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, for example, favors as earnestly as any progressive Democrat. In our present industrial system, some such program is absolutely necessary. It is a matter of common sense, to say nothing about justice, or charity. The plan which President Roosevelt promises to lay before the next Congress to effect this purpose will be eagerly awaited by the best men of both the major parties. So, too, will his plan for the development of the nation's tremendous land and water resources, and, of equal importance, his plan for better housing.

Essentially, the entire program is based upon the idea of a social system built upon the principles of the widest possible ownership of private property. It is the distribution of property—not its socialistic appropriation; but property held under safe conditions by American families, by millions of families, instead of by a mere handful of privileged people—that is the keynote of this program. President Roosevelt, we think, is fully justified in claiming, as he does in this message, that the New Deal involves no departure from American democratic processes or the basic ideals on which the nation was founded, but from which excessive commercialism, selfish capitalism, deflected it. The New Deal, like many real reforms, is a return to national traditions, not a radical departure from them. He believes that the American people, under his leadership so far, "have shown the world that democracy has within it the elements necessary to its salvation." That the majority of Americans agree with him is, we think, quite obvious. Fresh incentive to greater and ever greater efforts to realize that social salvation is supplied by the President's message.

## WEEK BY WEEK

INTERNATIONAL politics last week exhibited at least one characteristic which makes diplomacy continue to be an esoteric and "expert" profession. The recognition of Russia by the Little Entente, the recess of the full disarmament conference but with provision for prolonged committee meetings, the *rendez-vous* between Mussolini and Hitler unofficially announced for June 15, and the equivocal exchange rules of the German government, undoubtedly fit together in some way, but that way is certainly obscure. There has rarely been more objective excuse for an opinion that the trend of events is toward primordial chaos. The trouble is that all other theories seem to revert to romanticisms, which, since the war, we have been taught to consider fantastic. Once more Eurasia looks like nothing else but a chess-board. Several weeks ago the Nazis scored their sole diplomatic success by signing with Poland, France's ally, a ten-year non-aggression pact. Now the French foreign minister, Louis Barthou, has arranged to be present in Bucharest on June 18 to witness the confirmation of a non-aggression pact between Rumania, Czechoslovakia and probably Jugoslavia on the one hand, and the U.S.S.R. on the other—an "Eastern Locarno," it is called, or an iron ring around Germany.

The Plot of International Disorder

THE FRENCH have forced a continuance of the disarmament conference, to emphasize the question of guarantees, and regional pacts. They hope Germany will be forced back to Geneva by the Franco-Russian mesh of treaties. And Hitler goes to Italy. There are surely French and German dominants in the European cacophony. The Soviet Union still faces resolutely east, but among the Balkan Slavs there is again talk of the "Big Brother" and of Pan-Slavism. The Bulgarian

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Fascist *coup* now seems to have been faintly Teutonic and its reflex appears in the new Russo-Entente treaties. The U.S.S.R. definitely abjures the Bessarabia of the czars and makes a friend in Rumania. However stormily the sun of the Soviet Republics may rise, Mr. Litvinoff would have it set in peace. The Communist strain in international talk is so "Stalinist" that it sounds plain Russian, and economic problems are cut at every border by revolutionists as well as by capitalists. These problems, the hardest the nations have to face, are in the meanwhile shaking every government that presumes to effect international agreements, and are making the exotic art of diplomacy look more and more ephemeral. The German official press, with a more philosophic spirit than is lately customary, points out that "Geneva and Paris are neither the beginning nor the end of the world," but they are, unfortunately, symbolic stations in the disordered course of world history.

**Planning Industrial Peace**

WHILE our interests, founded on the papal encyclicals on social conditions which continue to be the surest norm for judgment on all the whirling circumstantialities of our present, are definitely committed to the improvement of the conditions of the laboring man, we are far from conceding that the laboring man can do no wrong in the pursuit of his own betterment. We have spoken candidly on what we considered the sabotaging of the NRA by selfish interests in the employer group. There is a danger that labor groups with equally special, selfish interests, may sabotage the country's concerted effort to get business out of the depression. An instance of what we mean, was the recent refusal of the union representatives of the steel workers to accede to General Johnson's proposal of a board of arbitration to decide their differences with the management and owners, and their vociferous declamation that they must see the President, that they demanded to see the President and have him settle the matter by ukase. To begin with, this is inhuman treatment of the President; if he were a "jittery" man, we can think of nothing more likely to prostrate him. And important, vitally important to thousands of underprivileged men, women and children, as are the issues at stake in the present conflict in the steel industry, the President's job is superior to his giving himself up to the highly involved and wearing work of being a labor arbitrator. If he were a Stalin or Hitler, the matter would be otherwise, but we doubt if even the "rank and file" steel workers would want that, and we are sure that they would not profit by it. The threatened strike in the automobile industry was averted by an arbitration board such as General Johnson proposed for the steel industry. This board was to be composed of a representative of the employees, another of the companies and a third of the public. Surely it is a fair proposal in keeping with American representative institutions and practises. Such a board can devote its whole time and energies and talents to the solution of the intricate issues at stake and labor will be spiting itself if it refuses to try this plan for industrial peace.

**For Health Insurance**

THROUGH its governing body, the Board of Regents, the American College of Surgeons has just adopted and published in Chicago the report of its Medical Service Board, made after many months of intensive study, advocating the general principle of voluntary health insurance. This is one of the most interesting, because one of the most positive, moves which have yet been ventured by any official body of physicians in dealing with the difficult and many-sided problem of modern hospitalization and medical treatment. It is a problem to which we have devoted attention from time to time, for we have been impressed with the growing gravity of a situation in which the doctor's bills steadily mount beyond the purses of more and more of the populace, and at the same time more and more of the doctors cannot make a living. It has seemed to us inevitable that some form of group practise should be evolved by experiment and voluntarily accepted as a variant of private practise. The four classes listed by the report of the Surgeons' College for medical or educational service are familiar: the indigent (whose medical care is regarded as a community charge), the ignorant, those of limited means, and those living beyond the geographical pale of adequate medical service. The cautions which they formulate are specific, and should be reassuring to the intelligent critics of group medicine who have feared in it the obvious dangers of commercialization and loss of free choice by the patients. Both of these points are the subject of candid and constructive suggestions, and the principle of "the responsibility of the individual physician to the individual patient" is emphatically maintained. It will be illuminating to study the reception of this unusual document by the profession and the public.

**Out of a Clear Sky**

IF EVER a situation appeared disheartening, it is the plight of farmers in the drought regions. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, returning from the affected areas, reported that the desolation of the scene—the livestock dying of thirst and starvation, refusing to eat the dust-covered grass, and cattle with dust pneumonia, top-soil blowing around like powder and piling up in drifts as high as the eaves of houses and barns in some places—was "just terrible"

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and that the human problems there were tragic. The suffering of those in the midst of these cataclysms of nature surely can be only heightened with a sense of bitter frustration by the irony that their loss is in our present strange economy of surplus favorable to the country's agricultural situation as a whole. A reduction in the estimated surplus of 3,000,000 heads of range cattle and 5,000,000 heads of market cattle, the Secretary said, would result in the improvement of the breed and help to place the beef industry on a more efficient basis. The Secretary also envisages, springing from present unsatisfactory conditions, a system of local warehousing of grains with government loans negotiable by the farmers for current expenses, with the commodity stores guaranteeing the loans. By this the farmer would be protected in years of bounty from having to unload his crop at almost any price he could get. And in years of scarcity the consumers would be protected by a provision in the loan contracts that the farmer would sell through the government at a reasonable margin of profit. This would eliminate the speculator's growing rich at the expense of producer and consumer and his manipulations of price contrary to the public interest in times of distress. While this social planning is being tackled, instead of mere lamentations being indulged in, the government is preparing to spend $525,000,000 for immediate drought relief. So we are not discouraged but fall to the problems as they arise, do something about them and carry on. This seems to be the practical, realistic aspect of the New Deal.

**"Color"**

THERE have been some happy touches of color in sport as the summer closes in. The sturdy American college lad, W. Lawson Little, who defeated the best British golfers for their amateur title, has furnished his share. American golf has not been lacking in thrills and dramatic surprises; the California don, Olin Dutra, who came east, a very sick man, and—pausing at every third or fourth hole to take a pill—snatched the open title from brilliant competition on the Merion green, performed a feat equivalent to Sweetser's a few years ago, in staggering across St. Andrew's course to win the British title before he collapsed. In racing, there are the exploits of the super-horse, Cavalcade, which recalls the might of Man o' War. In polo, there are the tournaments for the great fall play, featured by that which polo fans have been praying for since last summer: the return, in perfect form, of the incomparable Hitchcock, America's rugged 10-goal player, who was so badly hurt last year at the East-West matches in Chicago that it was feared he might never be able to play again. In the prize ring, Baer and Carnera represent professional color, of course—color which, even if not synthetic, is deliberately enhanced for the benefit of the gate; though there is a certain interest to be got from it nevertheless. And, as it seems to us, there is the chief candidate of all for the color honors of the season—the heroine who, poised with uplifted champagne bottle to christen a ship, saw it sliding down the runway away from her, plunged in, swam after it, and christened it regardless.

**Are Republicans Right?**

COMMENTING on the selection of Henry P. Fletcher to head the Republican National Committee, Senator Borah delivered himself ominously as follows, "I haven't a thing to say. Everybody knows what that means." This can mean only one thing, that Achilles will again sulk in his tent as he did in the last elections. It is no laughing matter to a sadly shattered Republican party, for Senator Borah is a serviceable political weather vane. He is not so insurgent as those indomitably insurgent Republicans such as Norris, La Follette and Nye who with one accord uttered fine scorn for Mr. Fletcher and held out little hope for the party, while he is quite chary of the eastern Old Guard with its few faithful file closers from west of the Alleghanies. Faithful old Senator Simeon D. Fess showed less than his usual faith in the unerring wisdom of the party that he has served so long; he was reported by the Republican New York *Herald Tribune* to have said, "A fine selection, but I wish it had been someone from farther west." Prior to the selection of Mr. Fletcher, when he was still a dark horse being kept under wraps by the Vare-Mellon group of Pennsylvania, there was much public talk in Republican councils of Walter S. Hallanan from West Virginia. His geograhical position on the top of the Alleghanies from which, presumably, he might like a far-seeing man look both east and west, seemed to be the principal item advanced in his favor. The fact that he was a leader in the stop-Hoover movement in the nominating convention in Kansas City in 1928 counted heavily against him. Besides electing Mr. Fletcher chairman, the committee framed a restrained and carefully vague platform, the upshot of which was to declare that the Republican party was the defender of democracy and states' rights, the champion of individual initiative and, by inference, the builder of "greater progress, well-being and happiness than have ever been enjoyed by any nation, any time, anywhere." In summary, in all fairness as far as we are able to see, the Republican party is solidifying as a Tory party, and we believe it is only proper under our two-party system that there should be a party in which the conservatives can serve with complete conviction and satisfaction.

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# THE MASS IN MARYLAND

By MICHAEL WILLIAMS

WHEN the first Mass was said in Maryland, the altar stood in the open air amid primeval forest trees, and around it gathered a little group of English colonists, their governor among them. That was three hundred years ago, March 25, 1634. On May 30, 1934, a Mass was celebrated in Maryland, again in the open air, again with a governor of Maryland present. On this occasion, one hundred thousand men, women and children were gathered about the altar. Millions of others heard the broadcast ceremonies. Seven thousand children sang the music of the Mass. More than twenty million American Catholics, the children of the Catholic Church in the United States of America, were represented in the great Act of Thanksgiving which was the central intention of this Mass, offered up by the Archbishop of Baltimore, from whose see—which developed from the mission established by Father Andrew White, S. J., the celebrant of the first Mass in Maryland—has grown the mighty Church of today. And more than one hundred and twenty million American citizens, of all religious affiliations, or professing none, could join—and the great majority of them did join—in that Act of Thanksgiving, in so far as it was made in gratitude for the supreme social benefit which the Maryland Catholic colony bestowed upon the United States by its dominant principle and practise of religious freedom.

Nevertheless, and properly so, this Mass in Baltimore on May 30, although it necessarily commemorated particular historical events of primary importance to all Americans—and, indeed to the whole civilized world—was preeminently a Catholic religious demonstration. It was the Mass itself that mattered. As Dr. Peter Guilday, the church historian, who preached a sermon that ought to be read by every literate Catholic, pointed out, although nearly all things connected with the social, economic and religious life of the world have changed since 1634, "the Mass, alone of all things bequeathed to us from the past has never changed. . . . In the ebb and flow of human progress, nothing has escaped, except the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Cross of Christ and all that they symbolize for the salvation of mankind." Kingdoms, republics, empires, have risen and fallen; revolutions and wars have swept away or transformed social systems, during the past three centuries, and the whole world today is in the flux of crisis. But the Mass said in Maryland three hundred years ago was identical with that said there on May 30, as that was identical with the Sacrifice offered up on Calvary, even as all Masses ever to be said anywhere in the world until its ending will be identical with that Sacrifice. Therefore, there was a perfect appropriateness in the fact that the Gospel of the Mass chanted in Baltimore on May 30 should have been nothing other than the Divine commission of the Catholic Church: the words of Christ to His disciples affirming that all power was given to Him in heaven and earth, wherefore they were to go forth teaching all nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He had commanded. "And. behold, I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world."

It was a thrilling event to hear the message read from the President of the nation, bearing tribute to the celebration as "a reminder to people throughout the United States of the great fight that Lord Baltimore made three hundred years ago for religious freedom in America," and testifying to the high esteem of all American citizens for Cardinal Gibbons, the one hundredth anniversary of whose birth was also commemorated. It was good to know that, in addition to the purely religious aspect of the Mass, state and civic and national commemorations of the founding of Maryland, uniting Catholics and non-Catholics in Maryland and throughout the country, have already been held, and that others are to come during the rest of the year. Nevertheless, May 30, in Baltimore's stadium, was before and above all other things supremely a Catholic event. It was Catholicism in action. To every Catholic in that vast multitude, from the Apostolic Delegate of the Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, and the many archbishops and bishops surrounding him and the Archbishop of the primatial see of the Church in the United States, down to the youngest child, it was to assist at Mass, in thanksgiving to God, that was the purpose of their presence in that enormous arena.

What a revelation of faith, and hope, and zeal, and devotion, and obedience, and of diversity in unity, was furnished by the Archdiocese of Baltimore on that glorious day. More than a year ago, Archbishop Curley said the word which he alone had full authority to say, determining the manner in which the Catholic folk of Maryland should celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of Catholicism in their state. That word had power. Ever since it was spoken, throughout the archdiocese, thousands of priests, and nuns, and teachers, and selected lay leaders, men and women, have been unremittingly at work. Organization on a gigantic scale, with multitudinous details to be worked out and tested, was necessary, embracing

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all the parishes, all the societies, the colleges and schools and institutions. Think of one detail alone—a highly important one, yet only a single task amid a myriad of others—the training and rehearsing of seven thousand school children to sing the liturgical music of the Mass. Then there was the working out of the assembling and the participation of the delegations from outside the city of Baltimore in the parade that preceded the Mass, and in the taking of their places for the Mass within the stadium.

Well was that year and more of patient, persistent, quiet labor performed. Triumphantly glorious was the result. To look upon the scene within the Baltimore stadium that day was to witness a popular unfolding of the depth and extent and color and variety and multifarious meanings of Catholicism such as never before has been witnessed in America. For even the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago, although much vaster in the crowd it attracted, and in the pageantry that accompanied it, did not possess that profoundly vital connection with American life, and history, past, present, and to come, which made the Baltimore celebration unique and which, second only to its highest quality of Catholic worship, was its distinguishing feature.

It is only on some such occasion as this one was —and how seldom does one occur!—that even the well-informed Catholic can really see a panorama of the Church in action. Ordinarily, such words as "diocese," "parish," "sodality," "school," "college," "hospital," are only words in a book, or a newspaper, or a directory; they are parts of a great organization, working along from year to year, taken for granted, but seldom vitally realized. But all this came alive that day in the Baltimore stadium.

"Oh, the color of Catholicism! The color of Catholicism! Oh, the riches and the wonders of the mighty works of the Church!" So at least one observer of the magnificent pageant said to himself, over and over again, and, no doubt, the same or similar thoughts must have been in many minds.

Innumerable seemed to be the processions marching into the vast arena, through the main gates, and other entrances, and taking their appointed places in due order. Banners and flags by the thousands; yes, by the tens of thousands—the colors of the nation, the colors of the Pope, the beautiful flag of Maryland; the banners of the schools, the sodalities, the parishes, the societies. Tens of thousands of boys and girls in uniforms, or colored blouses of gold, blue, white, rose, purple; altar boys in flaming scarlet; hospital nurses in white; cadets; soldiers; and religious orders: Jesuits (no doubt especially thankful, and proud, remembering Father White), Dominicans, Franciscans, Sulpicians, Passionists, Marists, Josephites, and half a score of other congregations—and the Sisters. Ah, those Sisters! one might list all the names, if space permitted—it would be almost as long as the Litany of the Saints. But how could one begin to suggest even a fragmentary part of the great story of education and charity which their presence recalled? There were Indians, recalling the first missions in Maryland; there were many groups of Catholic Negroes, both nuns and laity; there were colonial costumes of cavaliers and planters; there were the gorgeous robes of the hierarchy, and of the celebrants of the Mass. Color—everywhere color, brilliant in the sunshine, vibrant in the wind; color set to music, so to speak, as the ever-moving, ever-changing panorama was borne along to the playing of the bands.

As all settled at last into place, behold, a sort of miracle! for all confusion ceased, all this riot of fluttering hues became composed into a unity, a harmony—into a tremendous background and accompaniment for the altar, and for the Mass. And when, in the midst of the silence that came at the Sacred Time, there uprose from that altar a White Disc, was it too fanciful to suppose that all the colors were blended and explained and expressed in the Glory of the Host?

Three hundred years of the Mass in Maryland reached a climax in that ineffable moment.

It is a climax which, humanly speaking, has its meaning for us of today as the point from which the future history of the United States may be even more greatly influenced for good than the history of the last three centuries were affected by the Catholic Action that began when the first Mass was offered up by Father Andrew White in 1634. The challenge of the Mass has been made to us. How shall we respond?

## *Her Looking-glass*

No mercurial calendar
Truly tells how old you are,
Lacking the poet's truer tongue
Who looks at you and calls you young.
Young, though the years have combed away
Hair that was glossy once to grey.
The childless women, the aging wives,
I pity their strange and lonely lives;
And I hold that beauty early fails
The woman who thinks that lacquered nails
And the silk she puts upon her back
Avail to cheat the almanac.
The childless woman, her glass to her
Is a harsh and dubious flatterer.
But the years will gently deal as they pass
With you who have had for looking-glass,
Unflanked by vials of scented waters,
The admiring eyes of admired daughters.

ALFRED J. BARRETT.

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# SUGAR: THE KEY TO CUBA

By JOSEPH F. THORNING

THE ABBÉ SIEYÈS, that acute observer of and actor in the French Revolution, once wrote: "There are no political questions; there are economic questions." If there is a country in the world to which this pithy remark applies today, that country is Cuba. Destined by the Giver of All Good Gifts to be an earthly paradise, a veritable garden and playground for the tired business men of the Western Hemisphere, the island has fallen a tragic victim to the demoralizing forces of disorder and revolution. No government, however welcomed at its inauguration, seems secure. Cabinet shake-ups or resignations are only superficial remedies for a deep-seated disease, while labor difficulties and sabotage paralyze industry, communications and transport. Pillage and assassinations, having enjoyed a species of official sanction in the early days of the Grau San Martin régime, have become epidemic, serving the base purposes of revenge and political intrigue. With the best will in the world the statesmen of Cuba cannot continue to govern without the mailed fist of the army and the open threat of martial law. Truly, in the words of a brilliant French commentator, "Les solutions sont encore à résoudre" ("The solutions attempted leave the problem intact").

The causes of the chaotic conditions in our sister republic are as clear as they are profound. A starving people does not listen to reason. Two million men, women and children in Cuba are living in a state of semi-starvation. And this condition is being steadily aggravated. The $1 or $2 stipend which meant comfort, if not luxury, for the native sugar-cane worker in the boom years of the World War and its aftermath, when raw sugar soared to $.24 a pound, has shrunk to a scant $.20 a day for those laborers who are fortunate enough to secure any employment at all. One year ago, January 17, 1933, the price of sugar dropped to a new low of $.007 per pound. This year, although recovering fractionally, the selling price is still below the cost of production. This catastrophic decline in the price of raw sugar took place in spite of frantic efforts on the part of the producers, who cut production from a high of 5,500,000 long tons in 1924-1925 to less than 2,000,000 tons in 1932-1933.

These figures become eloquent when it is recalled that Cuba exported 4,148,719 tons of sugar to the United States as recently as 1929. When the celebrated "Dance of the Millions" was at its height, the island produced more than 20 percent of the world's sugar crop; now it produces less than 8 percent. And even this amount was not completely absorbed by the world markets, inasmuch as under the terms of the Chadbourne plan there is a substantial carry-over from last year's crop which is stored away in both Cuban and American warehouses.

When drastic curtailment in production is forced upon a one-crop country, what is the result? Thousands of plantation hands, engine drivers, mechanics, helpers, sugar boilers, chemists and mill employees are thrown upon their own resources. Debts are accumulated at the *colonia* stores, habits of idleness are encouraged, and the soil is ripe for political opportunists. In the meantime, capital losses are heavy: expensive machinery rusts in the fields, in the refineries and in the mills. Sugar-cane land, developed from virgin forests in the prosperous era, reverts to tropical underbrush and wilderness.

Discontented field hands, a mixture of many races, flock to villages, towns and cities, where they fall an easy prey to Communist agitators. The latter are chiefly imported from the United States, Mexico and Spain. In the interior the few mills that still grind sugar cane (numbering scarcely 100 out of the 178 that should be active) become hated symbols of foreign capital and foreign domination. The public utilities, water, gas, electricity, telephone and telegraph stations, islands of power and continuing service in the midst of an ocean swept by an economic hurricane, have to bend or break before the storm. When the consumers of whole provinces are unwilling or unable to pay their bills for such services, how can the public utilities contrive to meet their weekly payrolls, much less increase their employees' wages?

Strikes and labor troubles, with a consequent destruction of property and disruption of service, burden the operators with new liabilities. In this set-up, unrest and violence are apt to be endemic.

In recent years, public and private borrowing furnished enough money to the government as well as to employers of labor to prevent more than sporadic outbursts of violence. Today, loans, besides being an expedient of very dubious value, can be negotiated only with extreme difficulty. When the sugar industry, source of 80 percent of the national income, is jeopardized, public and private credit are seriously undermined. And the anomaly of the situation here as elsewhere consists in this, that the "Sugar Bowl of the Antilles" is a dubious risk, not because of the danger of depletion, but because it is so lavishly endowed by nature as to replenish itself superabundantly in a world where other springs of

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sweetness threaten to flood the markets with a sugary tide.

It is for these and similar reasons that Russell B. Porter, the able correspondent of the New York *Times,* writes as follows:

> At the moment the most serious issue confronting the government is the labor problem. . . . The fact is that the greater part of the Cuban labor problem is strictly a labor and not a politico-revolutionary problem, and that its solution depends more upon the negotiation of a satisfactory sugar-marketing agreement with the United States than upon any other single factor.

The chief market for Cuban sugar is, of course, the United States. Whatever may be the long-range solution of Cuba's economic distress, the crisis, so acute at present, can only be settled in terms of an increase in the quota of Cuban sugar into the United States. That President Roosevelt fully understands this is evident from his message to Congress on February 8, 1934. The President wrote that he favored a new trade treaty with Cuba that would "give to those afflicted peoples a greater preferential than they now enjoy under present treaty arrangements." The preliminary and temporary quota he mentioned for Cuba was 1,994,000 short tons.

At the same time, President Roosevelt pointed out that this generous quota which he advised for Cuba was only good business, since "Cuban purchases of our goods have dwindled steadily as her shipments of sugar to this country have declined." In short, he called attention to the fact that whereas we formerly sold Cuba $200,000,000 worth of manufactured goods, automobiles, electrical equipment, farm machinery, railway stock, etc., we were now barely supplying one-tenth of that amount to the once lucrative Cuban market.

Although the President recommended that sugar be declared a basic commodity, thus securing for it a place in the domestic allotment program, he did not favor putting sugar on the free list. What he did point out was that many feel that the $.02 a pound levied under provisions of the Smoot-Hawley tariff costs our consuming public every year more than $200,000,000 in order to protect a $60,000,000 domestic beet and cane sugar crop.

According to the President's proposal, a quota of 1,450,000 tons was accorded to the beet growers of the Western States because that figure represents the average annual production of the past three years. But the beet-sugar people do not favor this quota because their record-breaking production last year was 1,750,000 tons. Naturally, the beet growers in the Rocky Mountain States would like to maintain or increase this figure, even if it requires a higher tariff or additional bounties. The result is a tug-of-war in the national capital with a compromise somewhere between the two above figures indicated as the probable solution.

It is an open secret in Washington, however, that the A.A.A. experts are opposed to a government subsidy program. Deep down in their hearts these liberals would like to abandon the subsidy and the beet-sugar industry simultaneously. On the other hand, Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, defending the administration's quota plan for sugar before the Senate Finance Committee, did not advocate elimination of the sugar-beet industry, although he did admit that it should never have been established in the first place. He added:

> On tariff matters Ogden Mills is a far better Democrat than you folks. I'll hold with Mr. Mills that it is absolutely wrong to sacrifice the efficient producer to the inefficent producer, whether he be engaged in agriculture or industry, and to protect the beet growers by high tariffs and additional bounty is certain to sacrifice the efficient producer to the inefficient one.

At the root of the trouble is the political fact that a congressional election is coming on in beet-sugar states as well as in others. Generally speaking, the beet-sugar districts have been favorable to the Republicans until recently. The Democrats want to hold these seats. If the beet-sugar quota is curtailed too much, it is doubtful that they will succeed in the fall.

Two facts certainly stand out in this discussion of sugar, quotas, and the relations of the United States and Cuba. The first is that recent adverse criticism of the administration for recognizing the Mendieta government is somewhat beside the point: the problem is not political but economic. The second is the close tie-up between our own effort at national recovery and prosperity in other parts of the world. It is a most encouraging sign that our responsible leaders, both President Roosevelt and the ablest member of his Cabinet, Secretary Wallace, are convinced of the truth of this statement. They realize that a Cuba, torn by faction and verging on starvation, is like a ripe, red apple ready to fall into the lap of Stalin, Litvinoff, and Company.

It is said, "An empty stomach has no ears." The rank and file in Cuba are getting tired of a diet of bananas and sugar *au naturel.* Under the spur of famine and under the spell of radical propaganda they will seek to digest more substantial food. The deft diplomacy of our United States Ambassador, Jefferson Caffery, who has worked a sort of political miracle in his short stay on the island, will not prevail against the forces of anarchy and greed. As elsewhere in the world, the race is between reform and revolution. And in Cuba victory or defeat will be measured in terms of sugar.

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# THE COMING VERDICT

By CHARLES WILLIS THOMPSON

*The coming elections, says Mr. Thompson, who is a close student of American politics, will decide whether the people will return President Roosevelt in 1936 to the leadership of the nation. The elections, he believes, will be settled on national issues, no matter what local ones may also be discussed. If the Republicans can gain from 80 to 100 seats in the House of Representatives, it will mean according to precedent that the administration will be defeated in the next presidential campaign.—The Editors.*

IT IS full time, and more than time, to climb the watch-tower and scan the horizon of what will go into history as one of the most famous of American political campaigns. Early in June is the date for taking account of stock when that sort of hurricane is approaching. The fight does not begin in June, but the line-up does. The campaign of 1934 is to rank in history with those of 1882, 1890, 1910 and, if one chooses to go far enough back, such campaigns as those of 1858, 1866, 1874 and many earlier.

You will notice, of course, that those years, like 1934, are not the years of presidential elections. But they are the years in which the presidential elections two years later are determined. The election two years later is predetermined, is a ratification meeting, is a formality endorsing what happened in the mid-year of the administration in power. And it is invariably as early as June that the political earth ceases to be without form and void, and assumes coherence.

This always happens in the year when the congressional and state elections register the popular verdict on the administration elected two years before. But it is seldom that such mid-administration elections become historic. They become so only when they portend a great uprising of the people. The election of 1882 determined that in 1884 the Republican party should be turned out of office in 1884, for the first time since the Civil War, and that Grover Cleveland should inaugurate a new era, just as the mid-administration election of 1854 determined that in 1856 the Whig party should disappear and leave the new Republican party confronting the old Democratic one.

There is nothing mysterious about it, no hocus-pocus. The explanation is merely that after an administration has been in office about two years the people have made up their minds about it, for good or bad. In theory they have two more years to change their minds (in the third year no general election is held), but in practise and in history they never do.

President Taft was doomed by the mid-administration election of 1910; after that he and his party had no chance, and would have been beaten just as soundly if Theodore Roosevelt had never headed a third party ticket in 1912. If he had not, the Progressives would have voted straight Democratic; it was what they had done in 1910. All the Bull Moose movement of 1912 did was to give them a chance to vote for one of their own party instead of for a Democrat, as they had had to do when they turned President Harrison out of office in 1892 after a sweeping mid-administration defeat for him in 1890.

This is what will happen to the current President Roosevelt if his party is defeated in November. If the people are satisfied with his administration they will vote for his party, and the election of 1936 will reaffirm that decision. It is what always happens. Theoretically the mid-administration election is decided on local issues, but all history shows that the theory is moonshine. Doubtless it ought to be decided on local issues; doubtless, too, the stump-speakers and newspaper editors argue about local issues throughout the campaign and you would not think a presidency was at stake; but doubtless, also, the people are dissatisfied or satisfied with what they have been getting since the President was inaugurated, and the result shows what has happened and what is going to happen.

Notoriously politicians do not know anything about politics, and to this day you will hear people telling about how Cleveland's unprecedented landslide in New York in 1882 was due to a local issue, President Arthur's interference in local New York politics. But they never explain why the whole country went Democratic the same day that New York did, even Massachusetts (then the most rock-ribbed Republican state) electing its *bête noir,* Ben Butler, to the governorship because he was on the Democratic ticket; or why, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the people elected a Democratic House of Representatives that day. Two years later the ratification meeting was held under the form of an election, and Cleveland became President.

The reason why, in a mid-administration year, June is the time to look at the barometer is not that anybody knows how the election will go five months later. Nobody does, the politicians least of all. It is only that by June the administration has been on trial for a year and a quarter, has been closely watched, Congress has done all for better or worse that it can do to show its bent, and

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the people have approached a verdict. Always there is talk enough for the next five months, and for the next two years, but the moving finger has written and passed on.

This mid-administration year of 1934 ranks as among the historic ones because, ever since March, 1933, we have been trying out momentous experiments in government, which is not usually the case. It is also important because the pocketbook motive, which decided the election of 1932, is still uppermost and because all over the land every man is studying his bank account and every miser his cubby-hole with an anxiety never matched before. Ordinarily people pay little enough attention to politics except in presidential years, but beginning with 1932 every man and woman has come, with surprise, to the realization that politics touches each individual home and shop and office and farm.

It is therefore that Mr. Macy, the Republican chairman in New York State, is not sagacious in trying to confine the campaign to local issues. Ogden Mills and James W. Wadsworth wish to make the New York fight on national lines, because they believe the tide has turned against the Roosevelt administration. Whether it has or not, the people of their state will vote for or against the kind of government they have been getting, and certainly will not vote against their own pocketbooks. This is true in spite of Mr. Macy's happy belief that the marriage of utilities corporations and the Republican state machine has supplied him with issues galore. Mr. Macy's belief that the conduct of the Democratic legislators in Albany in doing all they could to run the finances of New York City on the rocks has supplied another Republican issue would be well founded in an off year, but not in a mid-administration year.

I am not trying the hopeless task of arguing that Mr. Mills is a sagacious person, whatever may be said of Mr. Wadsworth. That would be difficult, in view of the display of sagacity Mr. Mills made at the Presidential Convention of 1932. He just happens to be right this time, that's all; provided, of course, the people really are dissatisfied with the Roosevelt administration and the Democratic Congress.

One sign of moment has appeared to flatter Republican confidence, and a rather surprising one. In the Pennsylvania Republican primaries Senator Reed defeated Governor Pinchot by an astonishing majority. This was contrary to what all those wise creatures, the politicians, had expected, and what is more important, it reversed what hoi polloi predicted, too. Nobody thought Reed had a chance on earth. Reed was the first man of prominence to declare outright against Roosevelt, the NRA, and the whole Recovery program, lock, stock, and barrel. Pinchot, who had carried the state overwhelmingly at the last election, promptly made an issue of it, and thought like everybody else, that he had the nomination won before the fight began. Reed is not overpopular among Pennsylvania Republicans. The result must have surprised him as much as anybody; and it was gained solely on the national issue Reed and Pinchot had drawn.

Short-sighted commentators say this was only an intra-party fight; ignoring the fact that last November the Republican rank and file cared so little about party lines as to smash the intrenched Republican machine in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and other iron-clad Republican centers in Pennsylvania that are of less import.

Another sign of June is the growing cleavage between the administration and the Western Progressive Republicans, those whom ex-Senator Moses described as "sons of the wild jackass." In his 1932 campaign Mr. Roosevelt made an especial appeal to them. Many of their national leaders openly bolted and rallied their Republican phalanx to his side; and those who did not openly bolt, such as Senator Borah, lent him unmistakable countenance. And their states voted for him. In office the President has courted them, and in his first year they trotted along in harness, trotted more meekly than did many Democrats—outspoken Democrats like Senator Glass or mum Democrats who growled party treason behind doors or in the cloakrooms.

But in the early months of 1934 fissures began to appear in the alliance. It was at the instance of Senators Borah and Nye, especially Nye, that the President appointed the Darrow Review Board. Nye and Borah are Progressives of the deepest dye, and their object was to take a good hard slam at the NRA. It probably does not take more than the wisdom of a ten-year-old child to see that this was only the first shot they intended to fire, and that they by no means meant to stop there.

When the first report of the Darrow Board whacked the NRA hard, there was consternation in administration circles. The report was held *incomunicado* for seventeen days, during which General Johnson and Mr. Richberg burned electric lights to find out some vulnerable place in it. Finally it was made public, with the answers of Johnson and Richberg. Simultaneously the President hurriedly announced that the Darrow Board was fired.

It did not appease Borah, Nye or any other Progressive who thinks with them that the NRA is a breeder of monopoly and a death-blow to the "little fellow" and "the forgotten man," as Mr. Roosevelt in 1932 sympathetically called most of us. The seventeen days' suppression, the publication simultaneously with arguments against the report, the certainty that these arguments had been

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prepared by request of the President, and the concurrent attempt to extinguish the Darrow Board as Dr. Wirt had been extinguished, certainly had an effect on the Progressives, but not the effect well-wishers of the administration may be supposed to have desired. The whole affair smacked too much of John Hay's description of the steamer Prairie Belle going full steam ahead "with a nigger squat on the safety valve." When a safety valve finally blows off, more than steam comes with it, as Hay's "Jim Bludso" graphically demonstrated.

There are rumors in Washington that silent, wood-sawing Vice-President Garner views the Roosevelt program with alarm, though he faithfully sticks by it; that he doesn't know where it is going, but he, with it, is sadly on his way. No great importance is usually attached to what Vice-Presidents think. But it so happens that Mr. Garner is one of the inside circle of counselors to the President, and Gene Howe, who lists the Brain Trust by name, puts Garner high up on the list.

These are only a few selected instances, for space grows short. They indicate a weakening in the strength the administration had a year ago, but this by no means proves or even indicates that the administration will fail in the momentous election next November. It is so strong that it can lose a good deal and still win. Mr. Wadsworth, who is a careful talker and keeps his head, is confident that the Republicans will gain from 80 to 100 seats in the House of Representatives. If they do, they will either be still in a minority or have a bare majority. But, historically, if an administration merely scrapes through in the mid-administration election that is equivalent to a defeat in the next presidential campaign. In 1886, for instance, President Cleveland won by a bare majority, a heavily reduced one, in the House election; but that bare majority foreshadowed his own defeat in 1888.

The matter rests altogether on the voiceless voter. If he feels that the Recovery program has worked out, so far, to his benefit, he will vote for the administration, and no local issues or confusing pros and cons on the stump will prevent him. There is no earthly way of finding out whether he feels that way or not; even the *Literary Digest* poll only asks if the individual approves what has been done "on the whole." There will be large claims and much confidence, for publication, on both sides; but nobody will know until November, when the many-millioned Sphinx speaks. Nobody will know even such a partial factor as whether the Progressives—which means the West—have deserted Roosevelt or are still where they were in 1932. Not until November. What are here presented are only the scattered indicia of the decisive month of June.

# RICHARD STRAUSS

By KARL SCHAEZLER

VERY likely the works of no living composer are so frequently performed throughout the world as are Richard Strauss's "Salome" and "Rosenkavalier." If popularity were a dependable standard of value, German music since Wagner's time might be said to have produced no genius remotely comparable with Strauss, whose seventieth birthday was celebrated on June 11 of this year.

Indeed Strauss clearly surpasses Wagner in one important respect: his music is not so restricted to the stage, and his pure music is as successful as his work in opera. Apart from a symphony written very early, Wagner left no lengthy orchestral composition, no chamber music and only a few songs. All these Strauss wrote and, indeed, earned special renown as a creator of symphonies and *Lieder*. His ten operas are matched by ten symphonic poems, of which "Don Quixote," "Eulenspiegel," "Tod und Verklärung" and "Alpensymphonie" have entered the repertory of orchestras throughout the world. A full hundred of his songs are famous, not to mention his elaborate choral works, e. g., the songs for sixteen voices.

But it is not the charm of his music alone which has gained for Strauss a hearing during the past three decades. He possessed also a gift for creating sensations more widely discussed than were the innovations of any other German master, if one excepts Wagner, whose work was once "the music of the future." When he was barely twenty, he was declared to have written a "Musical Baedeker" (the "Italienische Phantasie"). Later he had set Nietzsche to music ("Also sprach Zarathustra"), and had given a musical reproduction of the intimacies of domestic life ("Symphonia domestica"). In "Don Quixote," critics said, the bleating of a flock of sheep had been faithfully reproduced. Parts of "Salome" were more a-tonal than anything else written in Germany before the war. Of "Elektra" one of the most respected commentators wrote that Strauss had no doubt unloosed "the most insane Inferno in all music." All his libretti had their especial piquancies. Finally one must note his instrumentation, which not mere-

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ly utilized every instrument hitherto in vogue but introduced new devices to the orchestra—the anemophone, sheep bells, musical glasses, for example. He captured the world's record for the dimensions of the orchestra employed. The first version of "Salome" called for no fewer than 120 musicians.

Now of course all these things are not especially meritorious, and if Strauss had no other qualifications he would belong among the curios of cultural history. The simple fact, however, that his fame endured and even steadily grew proved that he possesses far more than a talent for sensations and artistry; for experience shows that these last, once seen through, lose their attractiveness only too rapidly. Incidentally Strauss's reputation is not the most natural thing in the world, for the reason that his style is for the most part exceedingly complicated and *raffiné*—a veritable affair of gourmets. But how many of the countless admirers of the Wagnerian operas can boast of having a comprehensive knowledge of the whole artistic structure of the leitmotif? What always makes an impression on the layman is the character of the music as a whole. Strauss, who with his father belonged originally to the anti-Wagnerian faction, did not study the work of the Bayreuth master in vain. He learned to combine the whole power of expression which constitutes the superiority of Wagner's dramas over the operas of all his predecessors with that delicious spell of sound which has captivated most of those who number themselves among the devotees of Wagnerian music.

On the other hand, however, Strauss is everything else but a mere hanger-on of Bayreuth. The importance of Wagner was so extraordinary that for decades it obscured everyone's gaze into a possible musical future. All countries, Germany in particular, were infested with imitators of the great man. The first to lead beyond him—despite all he learned from him—was Richard Strauss. Not only did he enlarge the number of Wagnerian forms of expression, but he also altered the content.

Wagner must be looked upon as a genuine idealist in the poetic sense. That is at once his strength and his weakness, since it accounts for his sublimity as well as for his vapidity. But after Wagner's time naturalism and impressionism both waxed strong, and it was only logical that they should serve Strauss as elements to which to give musical form. "Guntram," his first opera, was still written in the mood of idealism. "Salome" and "Elektra," however, must be regarded as the highest achievements of impressionism in German music. Later on, Strauss substituted for this manner a style more eclectic, but which now and then made so strongly classical an impression, formally speaking, that—as in the case of "Ariadne auf Naxos"—its clarity, elasticity and charm (despite most effective dramatic power) suggested a comparison with Mozart. To be sure the resemblance is purely external, is based upon a quite remote likeness of form. Regardless of the fact that he soared far into timelessness, Mozart was a man of the rococo age. Strauss, on the other hand, is thoroughly modern.

This modernity is sufficiently well demonstrated by his almost boundless sensitiveness, which led to continuous collaboration with one of the most delicate German poets of recent years, Hugo von Hoffmansthal. Previously he had, as is eminently worth noting, hit upon unhealthy Oscar Wilde for the libretto of his most successful opera. Mozart's limpidity is the consequence of his genial naïveté. The word "naive" is, however, the last term anyone would think of applying to Strauss. It is rather the term "artificial" which has again and again been pinned on him by reproachful critics who regarded his work as artifice—genial, it is true, but nevertheless the product of the brain and not of the heart, where great beauty after all originates.

At any rate, it is clear that Strauss is an artist of almost unlimited skill. Difficulties do not seem to exist for him. And so he is at his ease in strict forms as well as free forms, in traditional and modern styles. His is certainly an extraordinary endowment, but an artist who combines such a remarkable power of spiritual assimilation with so much facility in composition and so complete a mastery of artistic means lives in constant danger if his sense of responsibility is not constantly on the alert. And from this point of view there is no doubt that one must look upon the work of Strauss with certain reservations.

Wagner's achievement, viewed as a whole, suffers from too heavy a load of non-musical ideas. Non-musical influences also affect to a great extent the music of Strauss. But behind this last there is not to be found a philosophy—above all not the philosophy of Wagner or the doctrine of resignation preached by Schopenhauer—but rather an excessive passivity in the face of the outer world of things. This world is the favorite subject of his symphonic "program music," and may be seen most clearly in the earlier "Italienische Phantasie" and the later, mature "Alpensymphonie," which describes effectively a day in the mountains marked by a stroll along the brook, a climb to the peak and a storm. Particularly characteristic is a comparison between this last-named storm and the familiar description of a thunder shower in Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony." The classic composer requires no anemophone and much less of other apparatus. It may be that Strauss's south-German origin (he was born in Munich) has something to do with his delight in the senses; the fact that he chose to live in Vienna does not account

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for much, as Beethoven's residence in the same city proves.

More deserving of note is surely the analogy to the trend of cultural history during recent decades. It is probably by reason of this trend that the spiritual situation in which Strauss found himself was precisely the opposite of that in which Wagner lived. The later Strauss is never threatened with nebulosity, but his peril is a lack of valuable ideas—noticeable not merely in the "Intermezzo" which deals with an autobiographical family quarrel.

A well-known German writer on music once called Strauss a "born journalist." Of course it is true that he wrote ecstatic music, of which "Elektra" affords an example, but this figures only in virtual episodes in his work as a whole and comports strangely with it. As one follows his music it is difficult to get rid of the impression that one is listening to a very gifted eclectic, to whom no one would possibly apply the phrase, "the poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling."

The test of the spiritual significance of every artist, musician as well as painter or poet, is however always his relation to religion. And here it speaks volumes that the music of Strauss has absolutely no bearing upon religious verities. Not only has he failed to write any religious compositions. There are no definable religious elements in his secular work. The sweetness of many of his *Lieder,* which some consider the reflection of meditativeness, cannot deceive us here. While writing the music for a ballet in the middle of which there is a biblical scene (to be sure, having to do only with Joseph and Potiphar) he himself wrote: "Well, perhaps there is hidden away in some atavistic groove of my soul a pious melody for good Joseph." One of his biographers makes the point thus: "Gustav Mahler, the Jew, is much more a Christian than is Strauss, to whom Christianity and Judaism are alike strange."

Strauss of all people should not be indicted for side-stepping the problematical. The supernatural is not a problem for him, because for him the supernatural simply does not exist. The illness to which he fell a victim is unfortunately a disease which has taken a heavy toll in his time. More generally, it is correct to say that his art is naturally bound up with the epoch. That is, of course, one reason why his success has been so outstanding, but it is also a reason why the road which he elected to follow hardly leads to the distant future.

Strauss is the master of genuinely bewitching harmony and of sharp dissonances which can really make audiences shudder, and his mastery of characterization is in its own way supreme and his command of musical forms extraordinary. Possessing the technical knowledge of a virtuoso, he has been a pioneer in every sense of the term, and his discoveries will be of immense value to all who come after him. But his lack of simplicity—a fault with which he amuses himself when he should be struggling against it—is after all a characteristic of an era of transition such as the beginning of this century was; and his achievements are in the final analysis just ultimate refinements of the workmanship of the past century. Although Strauss is a very important figure, he is insignificant in one respect—ethos, above all the ethos desired by a time seeking recovery.

For this reason it was a source of surprise that he should have been summoned to head the association of creative musicians in the "new Germany." Doubtless the deciding factor here was his reputation which, as has been noted, is probably unrivaled. For who outside Germany is very familiar with the work of Pfitzner, though he is equally important but more profound and less easily fathomed? Not long ago Pfitzner was sixty-five; and there is still no sign that his popularity is increasing.

On the other hand it would be futile to deny that Richard Strauss has very considerably enriched music. If he did not win the highest laurels of his art, the fault is doubtless that of his time, which would not have ended in catastrophe if it had been richer in spiritual insight. Here again we see that the proper understanding of music fosters understanding of the spiritual life as well, and that knowledge of the past affords a clue to the desirable activity of the future.

## *Midnight; Early Summer*

Time softens to silk now,
And the birds sleep
On the hidden bough,
Where the dark is deep.

No more the sun plays
His golden pranks,
'Twixt branched ways
And cloud-phalanx.

In wave-like chimes
Of silence flows
The moon betimes,
On trees in rows.

No man need train
Eyes near or far,
To plumb the plain
Of moon or star.

Here Night, the queen
Of grief and care,
With mind serene,
Is wrapped in prayer.

J. Corson Miller.

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# HUNGARIAN WRITERS

By JOSEPH REMENYI

THERE is a renaissance of Catholic literature in Europe which has reached Hungary too. For the past one thousand years Hungary has been an integral part of western Europe in the realm of literature as well as in the realm of other activities. When, for example, miracle plays were the characteristic literary expressions of the West, they had miracle plays in Hungary also. When the Latin hymns expressed the yearnings of human beings for God, Hungarian poets wrote hymns in Latin in accordance with the spirit and poetic technique of the West. During the upheaval of the Counter-Reformation, Hungary had a cardinal by the name of Peter Pazmany, whose services to the restoration of Catholicism were extraordinary; his facility of expression, his sense of esthetic symmetry, revealed a literary ability which, if it had not been manifested in the isolated language of the Hungarian nation, would have made him known all over the world. And members of the teaching orders also added to the merit of Hungarian literature.

Hungary is predominantly a Catholic country. For centuries it was one of the bulwarks of Christianity against the hordes of the East. The "Regnum Marianum" traditions are deeply entrenched in the soul of the Hungarian people.

From the viewpoint of belles-lettres, an interesting phenomenon can be observed in present-day Hungary, a reflection of the tendency of modern life, an effort to harmonize Catholicism with the artistic discipline of creative imagination. The aim of contemporary Hungarian Catholic writers is not a timid or vehement defense of Catholicism, but an attempt to portray the reality of Catholic principles, either with the lyric force of a poet, with the narrative and psychological reliability of a novelist, or with the dramatic instinct and vision of a playwright. Outside of the "Catholic substance" of their work, which is after all their ideological background, the uncompromising esthetic criterions are very important. Without the latter it would be merely a didactic literature, ethically and religiously justified, but outside of the jurisdiction of esthetic evaluation. In other words, literary ability is as essential to the Catholic writer as is his honest presentation of his faith.

Hungarian poets and writers of the past—especially of the nineteenth century—who definitely identified themselves with the dogmas of Catholicism were either minor creators or artistically insignificant. Their religious honesty is beyond question; the nobility of their purpose is undeniable; but they were not writers, they were only writing; in most instances not poets, merely versifiers. The two representative Catholic poets of the nineteenth century—Antal Sujanszky and Bela Tarkanyi—were conservative disciples of the inherited forms of Hungarian poetry, but their poetry lacked originality, vitality, spiritual virility. It was pleasant and decent, not profound and magnificent. It was the kind of poetry that fits into a school textbook for educational purposes, but does not fit into a poetic anthology of real merit.

As a student in Hungary I subscribed for a juvenile magazine. I discovered for myself in that magazine, for the first time, the name of Ottokar Prohaszka, professor of Catholic theology at the University of Budapest who later became the Bishop of Szekesfehervar. The rebirth and newness of Hungarian Catholic literature can be traced back to this unusually rich spirit. Ramon Fernandez says of Cardinal Newman that he was the philosopher of religious experience. Reading the works of Ottokar Prohaszka—the bulk of which was written for adults—one would say that he was the imaginative incarnation of a religious experience. His baroque style, his personality that radiated humbleness and knowledge through his works, his transcendental sense of proportion, exerted a lasting influence on the younger Catholic generation of Hungary. Rationalism was then the all-dominating philosophical principle. Voltaire was quoted and not Pascal, the brain was emphasized and not the spirit, Herbert Spencer was dissected and not Jacques Maritain. Bishop Prohaszka knew how to be a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ in an age and environment of seemingly enlightened rationalism and agnosticism.

Bishop Prohaszka did not write novels or poems, yet he was a poet by the grace of God. It was the poetic equipment of his personality rather than his penetrating analytical intelligence that aroused in the indifferent intelligentsia of Hungary an ardent interest in Catholicism. The post-war mutilation of the country, the inhuman sufferings of every social stratum, the emptiness of an existence that had no economic and spiritual support, made his voice even more significant. The Bolshevik disaster of the nation added to the chaos of the entire population. Young people were asking themselves this question: Which way are we to go? The gourmet traditions of their fathers or the superstition of intellectual infallibility was a poor guide. If, as T. S. Eliot says, Baudelaire discovered Christianity for himself, one must say that Bishop Prohaszka rediscovered Catholicism for a large percentage of Hungary. In addition to this, he induced, directly or indirectly, writers and poets to adhere to the integrity of Catholicism without offending the integrity of creative work. He prevented a return to literary dilettantism among Catholic writers.

It is a result of his influence that present-day Hungarian Catholic writers aim to produce a Catholic literature which in its transcendental and

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ethical substance is Catholic and in its form artistic. As yet there are better theoreticians among them than writers or poets of pronounced creative ability. They are innovators handicapped by being pioneers. Fortunately, they are overcoming this handicap with craftsmanship and sensitiveness.

Publications like the *Korunk Szava* (The Voice of Our Age) and *Uj Elet* (New Life), while covering the entire field of our contemporary civilization always commenting on it from a Catholic standpoint, are severe and just in their literary evaluations. Severity and justness is applied to Catholic works too. This is, after all, the point that must be considered. If Catholic publications become sentimental about the subject-matter of Catholic novels or poems without measuring them by literary standards, if they become indulgent solely because the works in question were written by a writer of admitted Catholic belief, they are not fulfilling their task in regard to esthetic criticism. The editors of the two Hungarian Catholic periodicals maintain that Catholic literature is not one-sided, "innocent," but an honest presentation of life, an excellent argument for the universality of Catholicism that recognizes facts and knows how to interpret them.

Boris Balla, a novelist, who has the courage of his convictions and the artistic ability to portray it, is the most gifted writer of the Catholic renaissance in Hungary. He is still in his storm and stress period; even the small quantity of his work indicates originality, spiritual richness, a feeling for realities and a visionary capacity for eternal values. Among the poets Laszlo Mecs and Sandor Sik must be mentioned. The former is a member of the Premonstratensian order in Czechoslovakia. His poetry is sometimes bombastic, sometimes loquacious, but it has touching and disarming humaneness. Sandor Sik is a member of the Piarist order on the faculty of the University of Szeged. He is a somewhat more disciplined poet than Mecs, more mature, but he too is uneven from the viewpoint of noncomforming critical evaluation. Recently a play of his was produced in the leading national theatre of Hungary, dealing with the noble character of Saint Stephen, the first Christian ruler of the country. There is much poetry in his play, not enough action. As a drama, it is static.

Other names could be mentioned, but it would not change the essential statements that I made about the general characteristics of modern Hungarian Catholic literature. Most of them are fragmentary promises of a magnificent religious and ethical vision, and a deep social conscience.

It is of interest that medieval Latin hymns were translated into Hungarian by Mihaly Babits, the greatest of contemporary Hungarian poets. His translations, including that of Dante's "Divine Comedy," no doubt mean an enrichment of the specific Catholic elements of Hungarian literature.

# A GREAT LIBRARIAN

By JOHN T. COLLINS

THE ROMANS are proud of their cardinals. And at the funeral of Cardinal Cerretti—he was buried on May 11, 1933, from the Church of San Ignazio—thousands of Roman eyes flitted over the twenty-two cardinals seated in their purple splendor before the main altar. A murmur ran through the church. An aged cardinal, so old and venerable in appearance that he might well have been Cardinal Bellarmine stepping from his statuesque tomb, was being helped into the first place. Many an anxious eye wandered his way during the Mass, and searched his stooped frame, his gaunt and weary face; noticed his long, bony fingers move along his beads and at the Sacred Name hesitantly reach for his skull cap—and many a silent prophecy was recorded that Cardinal Ehrle was *il prossimo*.

Now that Cardinal Ehrle is dead—it happened on Holy Saturday last—the Romans are asking one another if posterity will cling to his memory with the tenaciousness it has shown in the case of his brother in religion, Cardinal Bellarmine.

Like all men who make a mark in the world, Francis Ehrle had one ideal, an ideal as wide as that of Ignatius Loyola, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," and as specific as the ideal of Cardinal Merry del Val, "Da mihi animas, caetera tolle." He summed it up in the words, "Temo niente e spero niente," which may be translated, "I am ready for anything and I am looking for nothing." He realized the ideal of his order, always ready to do the will of God as it might be manifested to him through his superiors.

The United States was plunging into the Civil War when Francis was sixteen. He had already finished five years at the Jesuit Gymnasium of Stella Matutina in Feldkirch, Austria, where he had among his teachers the renowned exegete, Father Rudolph Cornely. On September 29, 1861, he entered the Jesuit order, in whose ranks he was to spend the next seventy-three years of his life. While a student of philosophy at the former Benedictine Abbey of Maria Laach, he was first given the office of assistant librarian, a forecast of his future career. At the same time he laid a deep and secure foundation in metaphysics that was to serve him well in later historical and philosophical studies. Only last year when two Jesuit students of theology visited him in the hospital, they heard him recall those days with gratitude, and left with the sage warning ringing in their ears: "The student of history who neglects his philosophical studies is making a grave mistake." That Francis Ehrle became a proficient philosopher is attested by the fact that for the next five years at his old school in Feldkirch he

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taught philosophy besides being again assistant librarian.

After the Franco-Prussian war and the Vatican Council, while Victor Emmanuel was acclimatizing himself to the Papal States, the May Laws of 1873 were passed in Germany which sought to bring the Church under the complete control of the State. The bishops courageously resisted, and the religious orders found themselves, according to the formula of the modern attack upon the Church, exiled to foreign shores as public enemies. This is why Francis Ehrle was for the next five years in England. He made his theology at Ditton Hall, Liverpool, under such professors as Wiedemann, Wernz, Knabenbauer, being ordained to the priesthood on September 24, 1876.

Now that he was ready for the sacred ministry, ready at last to touch and to heal poor, wounded souls, his motto of "Temo niente e spero niente" must have come in handy. Others might work among the people; he must find his souls in dusty libraries. And with a taste of work in the Liverpool slums, he was put to writing in the summer of 1878 for the periodical, *Stimmen aus Maria Laach,* which recently had been born in the struggle that surrounded the Vatican Council. While at Brussels, where the *Stimmen* had found a refuge during those uncertain days, he conceived the plan of writing a history of Scholasticism *(temo niente)* and no sooner had he set to the task than he was sent *(spero niente)* to Rome to look over the newly opened Vatican archives and to judge of the feasibility of writing a work on the reports of the Apostolic Nuncios to Germany during the Thirty Years War.

On account of the poverty of material, he returned to Germany and to his first design of a history of scholasticism. To gather material he undertook a voyage in 1881 to Naples, Assisi, Todi, Florence; and in 1882 we see him in the libraries of Paris, London, Oxford, Leipzig and Munich. Nor was he wasting time. In the following year appeared monographs dedicated to Franciscan scholasticism and the origins of the School of Salamanca. Soon after, he began a "Select Library of Theology and Philosophy," and in conjunction with Father Henry Denifle, O. P., founded the "Archive of the Literature and Church History of the Middle Ages." Not less important was the encouragement and inspiration he gave at this time to a group of young German scholars, whose work has since become well known.

In the spring of 1890 Father Ehrle published the first volume of the "Historia Bibliothecae Romanorum Pontificum," and in August was called to take part as *membro straordinario* in the Administrative Council of the Vatican Library. He was given, as a result, the charge of transferring the recently acquired Borghesi Library, and also of the new arrangements then being made in the Vatican Library. And in 1895 Pope Leo XIII appointed Father Ehrle Prefect of the Vatican Library. Now a new field opened up before him. He reached out over Europe in search of rare manuscripts to enrich the marvellous collection entrusted to his care, among his notable acquisitions being the Barberini Library. The process which he discovered for the preservation of old codices has become world famous. To all who wished to make use of the Vatican Library he showed himself most affable; and with his vast knowledge and catholic urbanity he went far in preparing the ground for the *rapprochement* between the Church and modern science.

When Ehrle was in his sixty-sixth year, Pius X allowed him to call in a vice-prefect with the right of succession. His momentous choice fell upon Monsignor Ratti, Prefect of the Ambrosian Library at Milan, who succeeded him in 1914.

During the Great War, Father Ehrle was director of the *Stimmen der Zeit,* and caused a stir by forecasting the Roman Settlement. After the armistice when once again the red cassocks of the German college gave color to the streets of Rome and gladness to the hearts of the Romans, Father Ehrle, at the request of Benedict XV, was called to Rome. He gave an introductory course in paleography at the Biblical Institute and later taught the history of scholasticism at the Gregorian University, and in the meantime served on several pontifical commissions. By this time he had achieved an international reputation as a paleographer, historian and librarian. Specialists in these fields came from all over to consult him.

Yet, with it all, never was a man more simple and child-like. On his seventieth anniversary as a Jesuit, he exhorted the Jesuit students of the Roman house to have a great devotion to the Blessed Mother of God; he advised them to choose one of the many Madonnas for which Rome is famous and labor under her patronage. As for himself, he confided, years ago he had chosen the Madonna of Saint Augustine, a Madonna who is the object of the simplest devotions of the very poor. On the same occasion he attributed all his success to his mother, the Society of Jesus. And he exhorted his younger brothers in religion to take for their motto his "Temo niente e spero niente."

One of the first acts of the librarian who became Pope was to honor the old librarian, Father Ehrle, by creating him cardinal. He who had always looked for nothing found his last years covered with honors. Not least of these was to be made in 1929 Librarian and Archivist of the Holy Roman Church. Nor is it impossible that future librarians will look to him, the efficient, scientific librarian, as their patron from whom they will learn the secret of saving souls while sorting manuscripts.

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# SEVEN DAYS' SURVEY

*The Church.*—Pope Pius XI in a recent letter to Canon Brohée, president of the Catholic International Cinematographic Office, urged Catholics of all countries to interest themselves in a question that is constantly growing in importance. The Holy Father declared, "The cinema is going to become the greatest and most efficacious means of influence, more efficacious even than the press, for it is a fact that certain films have been seen by several million spectators." * * * With over 800 persons filling the church and some 3,000 standing outside, Cardinal Hayes confirmed 496 colored men, women and children at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo June 10. His Eminence told the great throng that he did not "remember even in the great city of New York ever seeing so many gathered about a church." * * * Pope Pius XI, President Roosevelt and President De Valera of the Irish Free State sent Cardinal O'Connell messages of congratulations on his golden jubilee. At Boston College Stadium, June 9, His Eminence celebrated a solemn high Mass and reviewed a parade of 50,000 parochial school children. In the afternoon at a concert held at Harvard Stadium, representatives of Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston College, the Episcopal Church of Massachusetts and the cities of Boston and Cambridge paid tribute to His Eminence. * * * The Catholic Radio of Holland will observe the first anniversary of its Mission Hour June 24; a special program, which will be relayed by stations in Europe, America and the East Indies, will be transmitted on a wave length of 25 meters 57 at 12:15 noon and 4 p. m. Amsterdam time. * * * Eighty thousand persons were expected at the Cleveland Municipal Stadium to welcome the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who is to open the convention of the Catholic Hospital Association by celebrating a solemn pontifical Mass June 18. Of the 2,000 delegates expected from the United States and Canada, 800 are nuns from 100 different religious orders. * * * At an audience granted to students and alumni of the North American College at Rome on the occasion of the institution's seventy-fifth anniversary, the Holy Father acclaimed its contribution of more than 2,000 priests "scattered throughout the whole of the United States of America."

*The Nation.*—A simplified version of the Wagner labor bill was considered by administration leaders in hopes of passing it through Congress without delaying adjournment. The measure would give the National Labor Board powers for firm government action to meet industrial dispute emergencies. * * * President Roosevelt signed the McKellar-Black air-mail bill creating a commission of experts to draft a national commercial aviation policy to be submitted to the next Congress for legislation, authorizing the Post Office Department to award new one-year contracts by competitive bidding and reducing air-mail postage rates from $.08 to $.06 an ounce. * * * The 24-foot sloop Dal which sailed with three young Polish men aboard from Gdynia, Poland, finally reached its destination in New York harbor after one year and six days. Caught in a hurricane in mid-Atlantic, the Dal turned keel uppermost and her crew below-decks fell to the roof of the cabin. Her owner suffered such a severe heart attack, that eight month's recuperation in Bermuda was necessary. * * * Six men and one woman were found burned to death in the wreckage of a giant airliner which had been missing three days after leaving Newark for the West. The plane had entered a rainstorm over the Catskills and apparently crashed into a mountain side. On the same day as the discovery, a new record for passenger, mail and express flying between Los Angeles and Newark was established by a plane carrying fourteen passengers. The trip from coast to coast was made in 13 hours and 51 minutes, the plane averaging over long stretches more than 217 miles an hour, and making three stops, one of thirty-five minutes, one of twenty and one of sixteen, for fuel and interchange of mail and express. * * * The Silver Purchase Bill, with few exceptions as passed by the House, providing for a one-fourth ratio of silver, passed the Senate by a vote of 54 to 25.

*The Wide World.*—In Geneva the general commission of the disarmament conference met for the last spring session on June 11. It will reopen again in October. In the meanwhile old-fashioned diplomacy will try to remove the chill from Europe by effecting limited agreements among individual states, and the nations will try to lure Germany back to the general conference. Summer committees on security, guarantees, air forces, and the armament industry have been set up. Italy and Hungary will not help with the security committee, disbelieving in the regional pacts it will try to build up around Europe. The American representative, Norman Davis, will give the lead to the arms inquiry. * * * In Paris, Foreign Minister Jeftitch of Jugoslavia told the French his country needs protection against a Hapsburg restoration in Austria, and was urged to go along with the rest of the Little Entente in recognizing Russia. * * * Louis Barthou, French Foreign Minister, will attend the regular meeting in Bucharest of representatives from Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia, to ratify the Little Entente's non-aggression pact with the U.S.S.R. * * * In Warsaw two Jews were killed in the growing Nazi-like race feud. Since signing its ten-year accord with Germany, Poland seems decidedly less opposed to German policies. * * * Germany, wrestling with its money problem, still has energy for other activities. The veteran Stahlhelm organization is evidently doomed, and the government's Labor Minister, Franz Seldte, a Steel Helmet man, was hooted publicly by young brown shirts with the connivance of the Nazi chieftains. The Stahlhelm is considered

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unsympathetic and reactionary. From Holland the ex-Kaiser announced that he is ready at any time to return to Postdam and rule. * * * Hitler proposed the "historic meeting" with Mussolini at the Lido civil airport, Venice, and there was no good reason against it, since Italy's recent policy of relatively friendly understanding with France has quieted any uproar one might expect from that quarter. No great changes in policy are expected, and Louis Barthou of France will visit Rome, some time after Hitler recrosses the Alps, to demonstrate the growing Franco-Italian amity.

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***Foreign Debts and Trade.***—With the signing by President Roosevelt on June 12 of the reciprocal tariff bill, witnessed by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, new and sweeping changes in the United States foreign-trade relations were indicated. On the same evening the State Department in a note signed by Secretary Hull suggested to the British government that the war debts be settled in goods. This note also clarified the applications of the Johnson Act with regard to default and rejected Great Britain's plea that the fact that she relieved her war debtors affected her debt to us, because, said the note, she obtained the loans due us on her own credit without stating any contingencies at the time of making the loans. The note further emphasized that it was for the debtor and not the creditor to initiate proposals for ways and means of settling the debt. In England the first reactions were of encouragement that the United States government was recognizing the transfer problem. Liquors, rubber and tin were mentioned as goods which England could supply in large quantities if reductions in tariffs made heavy importations possible. The dollar credits obtained in this way, then could be utilized in the settlement of the debt. The new tariff bill allows the President to change existing tariff rates up to 50 percent. Secretary Hull, whose political career has been devoted to promoting international commerce as a means of both national and international recovery, hailed the signing of the act as introducing the reestablishment of "mutually profitable trade" and the return to "permanent prosperity." He promised American industries which are habitually in favor of high tariffs that "care, fairness and intelligence" would be used "to benefit and not injure them." As was expected, other nations, with the exception of Finland, gave notice that they would make no debt payments to the United States on June 15.

***New Bankruptcy Law.***—Soon after the President signed the Corporation Bankruptcy Act, several large companies in bankruptcy or receivership initiated proceedings to take advantage of its provisions. The act is an amendment to an earlier one entitled, "An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," and liberalizes the conditions for reorganization of insolvent companies. Heretofore such reorganization required the unanimous consent of creditors. In practise this has been found to be almost impossible to obtain. Under the new terms, consent of only two-thirds of all creditors is required, so that the obstructive tactics or inertia of small minorities can no longer prevent the settlement of claims and the resumption of profitable operations. The measure is regarded as a major achievement of the present congressional session and has been a subject of investigation and proposed legislation for years. Besides the provisions for financial compromises which are expected to relieve thousands of corporations from legal and financial bondage that was destructive of capital values and initiative, the new bill will obviate long-drawn-out and expensive receiverships and monopolies by professional receivers. The Insull Middle West Utilities Company, the $50,000,000 Telephone Utilities Company, Radio-Keith-Orpheum, United Cigar Company, Paramount-Publix and Roxy Theatres were among the large corporations which rushed to take advantage of the new law, and effect a compromise with their creditors.

***The Second Darrow Report.***—The second Darrow report on the protection afforded the "little man" under the workings of the NRA codes was made public on June 12. Like its predecessor of May 20, it charged that the interests of the "little man" were disregarded, and cited particular instances. It further charged that "sinister changes" were made in the retail code and dubbed General Johnson a military dictator. The sinister change was revealed to have been the insertion by General Johnson of the word "inaccurately" in a provision of the code forbidding merchants to advertise that they undersold their competitors. "I thought that a store which sold goods cheaper had a perfect right to say so," General Johnson explained and added that his change had been brought to the attention of the President before his approval of the code. Peter Van Horn, chairman of the Silk Textile Code Authority, to whom General Johnson had written of his change, wired in answer to the charges of the Darrow report, condemning "the hundreds of second-guessing Americans who love to criticize anything and everything adversely," and affirming, "I dislike having my name linked with any criticism of NRA which does not appear to be 100-percent constructive." Indications were that beneath the flamboyant personalities, constructive modifications of the operations of NRA codes were being affected by the Darrow report.

***Off Their Chests.***—The Senate Agricultural Committee conducted a four-hour circus last week trying to decide if Professor Rexford Guy Tugwell should be promoted from Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to Under Secretary of Agriculture. Senator Murphy indicated the reason for the inquiry when he told Professor Tugwell, "Publicity has indicated that you are a superman." Senator Smith brought in King George III. Tugwell was aked: "Did you ever follow a plow?" "Yes, sir." "Did you ever have mud on your boots?" (Professor Tugwell was at the time immaculate in cool white linens.) "Yes, sir." Senator Byrd tried to focus the attack upon an expository speech delivered by the Assistant Secretary before a group of economists in which he described the legal necessities

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of a completely planned economy. Tugwell protested, "You are trying by a speech in 1931 to make me say I favor the Russian system, and I don't." Senator Smith attacked the proposed amendments to the A.A.A. Act, finding them in line "with all this talk about collectivism, managed production, managed currency." At one point, as chairman of the committee, he heatedly censured his colleagues, saying: "These personal flings are unbecoming a man worthy of sitting as a member of the United States Senate." Finally Tugwell was asked, "Are you the ace brain truster?" "No, sir." "Is there a Brain Trust?" "No." And Senator Murphy said, "He's a conservative." "Yes, sir," smiled Professor Tugwell. His promotion seemed assured.

*American Doctors Meet.*—The day before the American Medical Association opened its eighty-fifth annual convention, June 11, at Cleveland, the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons went on record in Chicago as favoring voluntary, pre-payment health insurance to "provide more adequate health service for the whole community." The American Medical Association condemned this action of the surgeons as an "apparent attempt to dominate and control the nature of medical practise." The A. M. A. approved a resolution urging that every state and federal relief commission include at least one physician. The association held that it was unethical for a doctor to dispose of his services to a lay corporation for a profit, and approved a report that the various state medical societies cooperate with state bar associations to end "expert medical testimony" abuses. The Illinois Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York presented resolutions to curb the evils of radio advertising of drugs and patent medicines. Among the medical advances announced were the use of liver extract to combat certain fatal diseases of the blood, new methods of brain surgery which reduce mortality to 9 percent, and the discovery of anti-hormones in the human body. This latter was hailed for its contribution to the study of diabetes and other diseases resulting from the malfunctioning of glands and even to possible cancer research. By carding a score of 152 for 36 holes, Dr. John P. Loudon of Yakima, Washington, 1929 and 1930 champion, led a field of 184 to regain his American Medical Golf Association title.

*Maryland Celebrates.*—Once again June 15 and 16 the Ark and the Dove were to sail up the beautiful St. Mary's River to anchor off the site of the first permanent settlement in Maryland. Perfect replicas of the two tiny ships that set sail from Cowes, England, in 1634 were to land "Leonard Calvert and his colonists" at St. Mary's City, the first capital of the State of Maryland. A colorful pageant depicting the first three hundred years of Maryland's history, entitled "St. Maries, the Mother of Maryland," with a cast of over 1,000 Marylanders, was to follow the landing of the first colonists. June 17, thanks to the graciousness of the Episcopal Church which owns the ground, Mass was to be celebrated at the spot where Father Andrew White offered the first Mass on Maryland's mainland. This three-day celebration marks the culmination of the Maryland Tercentenary. The landing of Leonard Calvert and the colonists on St. Clement's Island, and the celebration of the first Mass on Maryland soil there, was commemorated March 26, when a large stone cross was dedicated on the island and accepted on behalf of the state by Governor Ritchie. The military Mass at the Baltimore Stadium, May 30, is described elsewhere in this issue. A granite memorial dedicated to Father White, June 10, bears the following legend: "In St. Mary's City, Maryland, 1634, Father Andrew White, apostle of Maryland and first historian of the colony, offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in thanksgiving to God for having led the Pilgrims to a land of sanctuary where they and their descendants might live in civil and religious freedom."

*Social Science.*—Speaking to the graduates at the University of Nebraska on the fortieth anniversary of his own graduation from college, Owen D. Young, chairman of the board of the General Electric Company, declared that his generation, no matter what criticism could be leveled against it, brought through the physical sciences "material things so that you cannot bankrupt the country by any experiment which you may make in your time. You may impair it by experiments which you may make in your time, but you can never altogether ruin it. I would not say that was an impossible task ultimately, but I do say that it will take more than one generation to destroy what we have built for you. Indeed, your problem is to deal with a land which is said to have too much, rather than too little. As my generation found its magic key in the physical sciences to unlock a world of plenty from our inheritance, so you will find your major task in the social sciences to control and apportion that world of plenty which is your inheritance." He outlined his idea of social development as follows: "Perhaps we shall have officially recognized research with responsible and responsive economic and social groups voluntarily applying the findings to their several needs under a general law, but not under a bureaucratic administration. Such a general law would prohibit and penalize unsocial and uneconomic practises and would make the industrial groups themselves responsible complainants against marauders and adventurers in industry who are enemies of the common good. That strikes me as the principle by which to guard both our political and economic freedom."

* * * *

*The Naval Plant.*—The United States fleet, majestically anchored in the Hudson River from May 31 to June 17, furnished a daily show to New Yorkers, and on week-ends entertained aboard over 250,000 visitors. In 1932 ships of the navy represented an investment of $1,365,144,000; our naval bases, $679,942,636; and total naval equipment, $2,647,803,053. The Vinson Act adds 102 ships and 1,184 planes, and will bring the cost of active equipment up another $750,000,000 or $1,000,000,000. Between 1789 and 1932 we paid $16,553,223,569 for naval forces, a sum greater than

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the total Allied war indebtedness to the United States, and only $2,500,000,000 less than the whole assessed valuation of New York City. During the present training year, which ends June 30, admirals are confident that their plant was made more efficient. The three most important faults they have found are: a shortage of enlisted personnel, excessive competition between ships, and insufficient long-range cruising. Intership cut-throat competition in gunnery and engineering has made gunners careless of safety and engineers careful to keep secret from the rest of the fleet improvements they have worked out for their own ships. It also has encouraged ships to avoid bad weather conditions, hard trials, and necessary experimentation. Long cruises are needed to teach general seamanship, maneuvering, and geography, to accustom men to different climates, and also, it was found while bringing the fleet from California, to condition the officers and men so that they won't get seasick.

*3.4 Percent Marks.*—On June 12 the gold coverage for German marks was 3.4 percent and Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, head of the central Reichsbank, was faced with every difficulty conceivable in maintaining the value of the German currency. Internally a "buying panic" threatened, with citizens eager to invest shaky money in goods. Already stores were offering substitute products of bad quality for goods ordinarily made from imported raw materials. Service on external debts had to be curtailed, but it was impossible to bring creditors into agreement on a program of moratorium. Suspension of foreign commercial debt payments was effected by enforcing a law which limits to 50 marks monthly the amount of money a person may spend abroad. On July 1, the Reich promises to give up all foreign payments, even on the political Dawes and Young plan loans. Paris claims the shortage of foreign currency in Germany has been brought about by excessive purchase of German bonds on foreign exchanges and of foreign raw materials for the Reich's armament industry. German imports are controlled by a practical governmental monopoly indirectly erected by the Reichsbank which alone furnishes foreign currencies to importers. Countries, such as the United States, which ordinarily sell more to Germany than they buy, are on a strict quota basis, and can only sell to the extent that they will buy and thus furnish their foreign exchange, or to the further extent that they will accept "blocked marks" which cannot be taken out of Germany. Up to this week, ten nations with unfavorable trade balances toward the Reich, were allowed "additional" exports which amounted to a free exchange of goods and payments, but indirect trade from countries regulated by quotas passing through these ten has forced an end to this last bit of free trade.

*Christian Syndicalism in France.*—Last month in Paris at the fifteenth national Congress of the French Confederation of Christian Workers, M. Zirnheld, the president, reported that the confederation numbered 792 active *syndicats*. He declared that there was no longer a city in France or an industrial establishment of any importance where Christian syndicalism had not been called upon to take its place in the councils where the workers' interests were being debated. These representatives were either designated by the public authorities or chosen by the workers themselves. In his report, which was unanimously accepted, M. Zirnheld averred that the confederation was opposed to certain popular corporative ideas that some of his fellow countrymen were trying to import into France. Instead he proposed a plan based on Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum" and Pius XI's "Quadragesimo Anno" as well as the exigencies of practical life. This plan would bring about a balance "between the material forces of production and the moral forces of professions." Therefore it would set up two bodies, one economic, representing all producers, to organize and develop the technique of production; the other professional, representing all heads of industry and workers freely and independently organized, to assure respect for and free development of their social and professional interests. In the meantime the confederation demanded without further delay: the extension of the right to organize; control of rationalization; organization of conciliation, of arbitration, of professional jurisdiction for every class; establishment of a minimum wage; compulsory collective bargaining and on a larger scale; unemployment insurance on a syndical basis; an increase of family allowances large enough to permit the mother to return to her household; reduction of the hours of labor together with maintenance of the standard of living.

*A Curb to Unemployment.*—After a study which included consultations with employers and wage earners, the sociologist, Father Rutten, of the Order of St. Dominic, recently proposed to the Belgian Senate, of which he is a member, a law restricting the employment of married women in factories, workshops, stores and offices. In his introduction to the proposed bill this leader of the Christian Democratic movement in Belgium quotes Pius XI's "Quadragesimo Anno": "It is, therefore, by an intolerable abuse that must be opposed with all our strength, that mothers of families, because of the insufficiency of the father's earnings, are forced to engage in gainful occupations outside the family walls, neglecting the duties which are especially incumbent upon them: above all the education of their children." The proposed bill would provide that no married women could be employed except: in agriculture; by those engaged in a liberal profession (not, however, as employees of schools or hospitals); in business establishments where only members of the family are employed, or where there are no more than three employees; in work to be done at home; in domestic service. Women in executive positions, a status to be defined by royal decree, would also be exempt from these provisions. Whenever a woman's earnings would be indispensable for her own maintenance or that of her household, she could obtain exemption from a justice of the peace, provided she could also demonstrate that her children would be properly cared for. These provisions would apply both to those employed by the government and by private enterprise.

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# COMMUNICATIONS

## PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH

Bridgeport, Conn.

TO the Editor: Your editorial entitled "Progress of the Church," in the May 11 issue of THE COMMONWEAL was a clarion call to all Catholics in the United States to make an examination of conscience, to see what the figures of the "Official Catholic Directory" for 1934 really mean, in the light of the events of the past year. True we have increased in numbers by 54,191. But our real and genuine progress stops there. For in influence, achievements, gain in prestige throughout the land, in Catholic Action, it would seem according to all indications that there has been little if any progress.

Too long it would seem we have boasted of our great number here in the United States; we like to point with pride to our 20,000,000 strong. But, the truth is we are not 20,000,000 strong, we are 20,000,000 weak. There are many and many more groups both religious and non-sectarian, who though they are far inferior to us in numbers, are far superior to us in influence. Why is there such a great discrepancy? Why should the greatest religious body in the entire United States be the greatest in numbers and among the weakest in influence? It is precisely because we are utterly unorganized. The Catholics of the United States, taken as a whole, seem to feel that they are going to be effective because of their known strength, but they give no expression to it. A half-dozen men who are organized and talking the thing over will have more influence than the thousands who stand around and do nothing about it. Of all the religious organizations, we are among the most unorganized. And we belong to the class who are content to be inarticulate and let things, however bad, take care of themselves. In England, there are about 3,000,000 Catholics and they are far more active than all the 20,000,000 American Catholics put together. The reason is that they are organized and we are not. We belong to the new branch of the Catholic Church which has sprung up, the Church "Dormant," to use an expression of Father Keating in the *Month* magazine. We are not militant Catholics, we are "asleep at the switch." True there is some activity here and there, every now and then, but on the whole, there is no real genuine Catholic Action.

As Father Daniel Lord has well remarked in his fine booklet, "The Call to Catholic Action," we are content to be just, good ordinary Catholics and religious spectators. "Catholics have been regrettably enough a strangely inarticulate race. Because of this reticence, Catholic thought has not made on the modern mind an impress in any proportion to our actual numbers. Catholic solutions, which are Christ's solutions, are not brought to bear on economic, moral, social and political ills, simply because Catholics are timidly silent." Outside of the devotion to the fifty-two Sundays and the holy days of obligation and some socials, Catholics do not play a very active part, for the Catholic Church.

The pity of it all is that we are now living in one of the most eventful periods in the history of the world. And still for the most part, Catholics are living today just as if they were living twenty years ago. By their singular inaction they do not seem to realize that there are great changes which are now taking place in the world; we are on the threshold of a new era. And Catholics are not seeing to it that Catholic principles shall have a voice in the creation of this new period. In Poland the Jesuit Father Count Rostworowski has well demonstrated in the *Czas,* of Warsaw, that it is the entire modern epoch from the time of the Renaissance which is rapidly coming to a close. And another thinker, Berdyaev, in his "The End of Our Time," also has shown that in the light of past history, this era resembles that which preceded the coming of the Renaissance. How will this period be marked in the history of the future, will it be Catholic or Protestant, Christian or atheistic? All will depend on the part that Catholics and Christians will play or rather are playing now to inject the saving principles of Christianity into the making of this new epoch. Even in our own United States there is now some legislation which many are striving to have made into law, which will do more harm later than all the effects of this great economic depression. They are con traception, sterilization, divorce. In all of which we have a responsibility.

If there ever was a time ripe for the spread of Christian principles it is the present. And Ruth Katherine Byrns, in the *Catholic World* of June, 1933, was eternally right when she said: "If every Catholic were possessed of a determination to transmit the essentials of his Church's doctrines, a readiness to apply Christian principles to every problem that arises, and a desire to interpret every phase of life in terms of the Catholic code, a campaign for reform would be well begun. But the ordinary American layman contents himself with much less than this. He wishes to preserve and strengthen his personal sanctity but he usually lacks the missionary spirit. He is hesitant about quoting the teaching of Christ to help determine a policy of state or of business. Because we have been subjected to bitter prejudice Catholic laymen, for the most part, seem timid about offering the truths of their faith." And while we are so complacent, the Communists and the other agitators who believe that they have a panacea for all the world's ills, are aggressive and active. And we who have the right solution to the world's ills, we are indifferent in the spreading of these salutary truths, to help lift up the world to the standards of Christianity. Since the Communist is found everywhere preaching his atheistic doctrine, the Catholic can too best defeat him by a more vigorous and widespread teaching of the truths of the Church. Pope Pius XI has well said that Christian civilization is in danger throughout the world, and yet are we American laymen aware of the great significance with which the words of the Shepherd of Christendom are fraught? Not by our way of acting.

True there has been some "rumbling" caused by the immoral pictures which are now exhibited on the screen, which almost persuade one that some minds are scheming resolutely to corrupt society. Their productions which laugh at virtue with their beastly fleshiness, are instilling

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pagan ideas in the minds especially of the young, as is well shown in "Our Movie Made Children." But of the 20,000,000 Catholics in the United States how many dioceses have organized a crusade against pornographic filth and raw paganism in the movies? Not very many of the great number of dioceses in the country.

We know from Father Lord what the militant action of the sodalists was able to accomplish in regard to the picture, "The Sign of the Cross," when the boycott caused the producers to lose $125,000. If all Catholics were to bestir themselves to activity, in less than a year we would be able to make producers present clean and educational pictures by touching them at their most vulnerable point: their pocketbook.

Some activity has been created by the appeal of the Paulists for justice in regard to the time allotted them on the air. They have been the victims of a singular act of base injustice. We have it that there have been about 100,000 letters sent in to Washington, D. C. But if there had been still more support for the Paulists, the members of the Federal Radio Commission would have been scared into action. We do not seem to realize what it means to have a Radio Station controlled by Catholics, from which we may broadcast without the authorization of officials of other companies. Former Justice Cohalan at the Communion breakfast of the Knights of Columbus at the Astor recently struck the right note when in speaking of the unjust treatment accorded to WLWL he said: "Awake, my fellow Catholics. Look at what the Jews recently so downtrodden and oppressed have done almost overnight. Let us profit by their example and demand and insist upon equality with all and for all within the four corners of the country."

There is also the Birth Control Bill which has been favorably reported this time by the Senate Investigation Committee. The report on the hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives and also before a Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, contain astounding revelations. A perusal of these hearings well shows how the Catholics have been active on this score. Many populous Catholic sections were not even represented and did not send in a letter of protest. Their opposition was not as well organized as the statement of the case of birth control by Miss Sanger and her cohorts. She enlisted every available authority, and her presentation of the case bespeaks very active organization and cooperation by all those interested in the enactment of this law.

Another instance is the Catholic Hour broadcast over Station WEAF on Sunday afternoons. This broadcast is among the finest on the air from the religious standpoint, and still it is well to ask: Is this fine work sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Men getting the support it should from Catholics at large?

Many will tell you that the papal encyclicals are read by Protestants, and it took a man like President Roosevelt to make the papal encyclicals better known in the United States. Secretary Wallace in a letter to Michael O'Shaughnessey has manifested his admiration for the value of these papal pronouncements. How many Catholics know the encyclicals of the Holy Father, how many are giving themselves the trouble to acquaint themselves with the content of these documents? Such a man as Michael O'Shaughnessey, the founder of the League of Social Justice, has recently deplored the indifference shown the social program of Pope Pius XI by Catholics, who he said have been indifferent to their moral and civic responsibility. Study clubs are needed everywhere to acquaint Catholics with Catholic principles, so that they in turn can bring these influences to bear in their everyday life.

THE COMMONWEAL some time ago had to launch an appeal to save its very life, and it was only by dint of admirable courage and perseverance that we were not bereft of one of the finest weeklies issued in the United States which has won the high praise of prominent non-Catholics. The Catholic press needs greater support than it is receiving. The Holy Father in his latest pronouncement on Catholic Action laid great stress on the support of the press, which he recognizes to be of paramount value to effect the spreading and maintenance of Catholic principles.

There is another sore spot—affiliation with the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women to bring about greater union of activities among the different Catholic organizations in the United States. How many organizations are not affiliated as yet? The retreat movement is starting to progress. Vacation schools need more expansion in the more populous centers where the children are deprived of a parochial school education. The liturgical movement needs our hearty support.

These are but some of the practical aspects of Catholic Action and their operation in the United States. I have no tendency to condemn all Catholics as a whole and say that nothing is being done. Some centers have become "bee-hives" of activity for Catholic Action. But taken as a whole there is yet a tremendous amount of work to be done. The reason for the advancement of Catholic Action in certain sections of the country is that they have leaders. There are very many Catholics who would be only too willing to do their share in the cause of Catholic Action, but they need to be led. God grant that during the course of the next year new leaders will rise to make Catholic Action a part of the life of every American Catholic.

WILLIAM LAURENCE.

## SABOTAGING THE NEW DEAL

Woodside, L. I.

TO the Editor: Thanks for your editorial, "Sabotaging the New Deal." There is need for more of the frankness of language displayed in this title. It is refreshing to see THE COMMONWEAL lead the way. More power to you!

THOMAS J. SCANLON, JR.

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*The title page and index of Volume XIX of* THE COMMONWEAL *are now ready. These will be sent upon request.*

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# BOOKS

## Mitigated Socialism

*The Economy of Abundance, by Stuart Chase. New York: The Macmillan Company.* $2.50.

FOR A good many years now, Stuart Chase has been studying the productiveness of our industrial machine, exposing in detail its failure to function effectively, setting forth the reasons of its failure and estimating its possible achievements under a plan of rational operation. In the present volume, he repeats in a new setting a good deal that he had said before, analyzes the impasse which has been reached by the capitalist system and submits no less than eighteen measures or principles that we must adopt if we are to have an effective industrial system in this age of plenty.

Through technological improvements, the productive power of the average American worker has been multiplied forty times since 1830. As a consequence, the author concludes that a rational use of our productive resources and instruments could at the end of a decade provide every family of the United States with "an average standard of living at least three times higher than a simple health and decency budget" and a volume of consumers' goods plus collective and cultural services which would provide more comforts and satisfactions than most families were able to command in 1929 on $10,000 a year.

There are several chapters which describe the excessive capacity of our industrial system in terms of man power, plant power and agriculture, but the chapter entitled "The Formula of Capitalism" is probably the most challenging in the book. Its thesis is that not enough of the national incomes goes to those who might be willing to consume the entire industrial product; too much goes to the owners of capital who wish to invest most of their income in new instruments of production. "In order to maintain existing levels of consumption, an increase in quantity of capital goods must also be constructed—leading ultimately to overproduction and excess capacity" (page 144). When the industrial plant is overbuilt, a large part of its product, actual or potential, cannot be sold at a profit. The inevitable result is an inability or a lack of inclination on the part of business men to continue that production of surplus capital instruments which is necessary to keep up employment and consumption. The final result is a burden of "overhead" and debt which cannot be carried, and all the other phenomena of industrial depression. These evil effects are reenforced and accentuated by the approaching decline in the populations of the largest western nations, the growth of national economic self-sufficiency, the lack of new industries to be developed and the steady increase of technological unemployment. Hence a very large part of the savings of capitalists has no place to go.

This analysis seems to be substantially correct. For the evil that it exposes, there is only one fundamental remedy. It is to reduce the share of the product taken by capital. Unless this is done, complete recovery from the depression


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# Next Week

As thousands of young men and women are pouring from schools and colleges to face a bewildered and chaotic world at this season of the year, it is our custom to have an Educational Number. So next week's issue will be the Educational Number. It is designed not only for the educated but also for those thousands possibly no less bemused — as regards the temporalities which have assumed such a shaky, temporary aspect—who are the educators. So much depends on their keeping the streams of our understanding pure. Not only those flecks in the narrow beam of our finite intelligence known as facts, do they reveal, but also, God willing and their own dispositions being in order, they impart wisdom, sober wisdom supported on the cornerstones of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, its solid contact with earth, and joyful wisdom implicit in the tidings of great joy and the everlasting adventure. Whatever turn business and politics may take, not the least of the lasting elements of wisdom important to educator and educated is purity. TRAINING FOR CHASTITY, by Felix M. Kirsch, member of the faculty of the Catholic University, considers this difficult problem from a thoroughly adult, practical point of view. The uninformed charge of repression is so often hurled at the Catholic attitude in this matter, that it is important to have presented a positive, pro-life, pro-understanding exposition, which definitely involves an appreciation of the right order of things. And the article does not blink that there is Catholic ignorance and weak sentimentalism. . . . FATHER ZEPHYRIN, by Francis Borgia Steck, is a fine appreciation of a good man and a great scholar, and of his achievements in the field of American history. . . WHAT PRICE FAINT HOPE! by Logan M. Bullitt, is an article based on strenuous experience which points out the possibilities of Catholic Action. . . . CATHOLICS IN GERMANY, by George N. Shuster, vividly describes another of the great modern conflicts of Caesarism with Catholicism.

cannot be brought about or, if it is accomplished, it cannot become permanent.

In the last chapter, Mr. Chase enumerates eighteen "Technological Imperatives" which the industrial system of the future must obey if it is to function adequately. Most of these imperatives strike one as fairly reasonable and feasible. Some of them are questionable. At least one (17) will be found distasteful to most believers in economic freedom. Following his presentation and discussion of these imperatives, the author adds "a few words of final speculation" concerning the political implications. Here are the most significant sentences of this section:

"Income-producing property which one does not use will pass out of individual possession. Title will vest in the community. It will include the bulk of land, mineral deposits, forest stands, public utilities, and most of the producing and distributing plant. Banking, credit and the issue of money will be a strict government function. There will be no more private banks or stock exchanges. The interest rate will approximate zero, and the debt structure will be very modest, in no event growing faster than physical production."

"Work will be carefully allocated, and what the general staff requires, citizens will have to perform" (page 314).

This means a form of mitigated Socialism, which most of us do not want. The destruction of liberty involved in the last sentence quoted above might conceivably be worse for society than a forced return to the economy of scarcity. Most readers who reject the former will not concede that the latter is the only alternative; or that the American people are so poor intellectually that they cannot preserve most of the gains of invention under some other arrangement than despotic regimentation.

JOHN A. RYAN.

## An Ugly Duckling

*The Life of Hans Christian Andersen, by Signe Toksvig. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company.* $3.00.

THE ONE and only authentic contribution which Danish letters, abounding in strong and striking personalities, made to world literature, is the hero of this fascinating success story. Hans Christian Andersen's overnational fame and popularity are less questioned than those of many an incomparably deeper and broader master. His renown outside the boundaries of his little country rests like that of Cervantes on a single book. But this book, replete in its crystalline purity with grace and fancy and humor, streams forth a halo around the head of the poet of the "Ugly Duckling," which is not likely to fade as long as childhood connotes happiness in civilized tongues.

The glory of Andersen is the well-deserved pride of Denmark. In few other countries could the son of a gloomy shoemaker and a sottish charwoman have fought his way up with as much luck as Andersen did. A tremendous amount of sympathy and kindliness and patience

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was needed to form a poet from the ignorant little lout who landed one day with soaring ambitions but without a penny or friend on the sidewalks of Copenhagen. He was truly a self-made man, and his career, like that of most of his consorts, was neither smooth nor painless. For a while, his past weighed heavily against him, and his countrymen were unable to forget the illiterate peasant lad, who became the author of "Improvisatore" and of the "Fairy Tales." For a long time, no one was less of a prophet in his own land than Andersen. No wonder that he so often flung the recognition of foreign potentates in the face of sceptical Danish critics. The complacency with which his autobiography records the tributes harvested in foreign parts, is often childish, or perhaps, rather childlike. For until his end, in all his battles and in all his glory, Andersen never grew up. In his heart, he remained an ingénu, and this very ingenuousness may have been the *faculté maitresse* which enabled him to speak like a child to his playmates in glittering flights of imagination. But while this ingenousness was his forte in his fairy tales, it proved to be his weakness in his other writings. In his novels he was nothing but a sentimentalist, and their withered rhetoric, outside of some fine and sensitive descriptive passages, offers but an antiquarian interest to the modern reader.

Part of his life is known from his autobiography. Miss Toksvig has supplemented "The True Story of My Life" in a charming and straightforward style. She is a first-rate story-teller herself, unpretentious, and free from mannerisms. She does not hold herself superior to her subject, and also she is free from hero-worship. The biography has only one serious blemish: it stresses almost exclusively the happenings in Andersen's worldly career; Miss Toksvig has not even attempted to brush a balanced portrait of Andersen the poet. The American reader who is not apt to be familiar with more than one phase of the poet's work, will gather little information from her book. Still, as the chronicle of a notable life, Miss Toksvig's "Andersen" will surely be welcome not only to grown-up children, haunted by pictures of fairy-land lost, but also to sophisticates in quest of rare personalities.

ARPAD STEINER.

## Social Service

*Windows on Henry Street, by Lilian D. Wald. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.* $3.00.

THIS is a book that will take its place with "The House on Henry Street," "Twenty Years at Hull House," "The Second Twenty Years at Hull House," and similar volumes. It does not pretend to be a learned treatise. Nor it is a mere compilation of statistics and of cases or a desultory account of persons and events. It is a record of human experience, a volume throbbing with vital things, a significant document showing what an important part a settlement can play in the movements of a day. From its pages is reflected the hope that it may contribute something toward the betterment of social conditions. "What has been written in the chapters of this book," says the author, Miss Wald, "will have lost signifi-


# PRESENT AND PAST

Not to know that there has been a Catholic intellectual revival is sheer provincialism. Not to know something of its nature is also provincialism, but not sheer. For a rapid introduction to it, A SHEED & WARD SURVEY ($2.50) should prove useful. It is an anthology of our own publications: selections, *each one complete in itself*, from sixty-one books written by forty-five leaders of the Catholic Revival. There is almost everything here—philosophy, theology, history, poetry, drama, literary criticism, sociology. And there is an appendix containing biographical notes on forty-four of the authors. The book is already being selected for Survey Courses in modern Catholic literature. (Very characteristic of the new Catholic mood is Alfred Noyes's apologia THE UNKNOWN GOD ($2.50) in which the case for theism is presented as it is seen by a man soaked in the atmosphere of the modern world and capable of sorting out what is good in that atmosphere from what is less good. The book has had an ecstatic welcome in England, not only from Catholics.)

The present moment, then is full of excitement. But the Church has not only a present: she has a past. The past must be known and understood, but most church histories are something less than gay to read. The first volume, now out, of Father Philip Hughes's HISTORY OF THE CHURCH makes gripping reading. Father Hughes is a ripe scholar and an admirable stylist. He belongs to that modern school of historians who do not feel that the church has to be posed for her photograph, but realize on the contrary that the Church of history, with all the failings of Her members, is the only Church God founded: and that if people do not like Her as She is and has been, there is no point in presenting them with a picture touched up to their taste. (The second volume is due in the Fall, the third and last next Spring, each at $3.50, the set for $10).

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cance if a consciousness of sin in our human relations and a quite general impulse to do better have not been recorded." The hope is definitely expressed that through the book people will be encouraged to participate more widely than they are now doing in the affairs of the going world.

"Windows on Henry Street" shows that not a few of our social movements have had their origin in the Henry Street settlement and that many others have received encouragement and renewed impulse there. A host of questions of the day are touched upon in the volume—the race problem, international peace, recognition of Russia, child labor, nursing and health, housing, prohibition, and many others. While the neighborhood sky line may not permit one literally to see far through the "windows on Henry Street," the volume bearing this title enables one to see very far indeed. It shows the influence of the settlement at work, not only on Henry Street, but also far beyond, even as far beyond as Russia and China. It shows what a far-reaching influence a small energetic minority may wield in the affairs of public interest.

The book is an Atlantic Monthly Press publication.

EDGAR SCHMIEDELER.

## Novels of Three Nations

*The Oppermanns, by Lion Feuchtwanger. New York: The Viking Press.* $2.50.

*Nether Applewhite, by Horace Annesley Vachell. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.* $2.50.

*The Story of a Country Boy, by Dawn Powell. New York: Farrar and Rinehart.* $2.50.

THE SCENES of these stories are, respectively, Germany, England and America. Yet one does not feel that the locale in any of them plays the vital part that is claimed for it (though this is not entirely true of "The Oppermanns"); in each case it seems to exist only because of the physical necessities of action and the limitations of the author's knowledge. By the novel in which the background is a vital part, I do not mean one in which the scene is the main object of attention; these have been very common recently, for they are of the present tendency in art to abandon the individual, the character in the old sense, and move on to the collectivist blur. But I mean the novel in which the scene exists as an essential power in motivating the characters' actions: "Humphrey Clinker" might be taken as an example; there is certainly no conscious striving for atmosphere in it, yet there is a welding of person and place (despite the frequent shifts of scene) which produces something midway between either of its components and broader than either of them. Perhaps it might be called a way of life.

Certainly a synopsis of "The Story of a Country Boy" would lead one to conclude that its chief concern was a way of life. Chris Bennett was brought up on a farm, but chance threw him into business, where he soon rose to wealth and power, forgetting the simple life and indulging in all the banalities and tawdriness of the rootless rich; the depression brings him back to his senses and the farm. This would seem to prove that the depression is the great corrective; but if farm life produces such clods

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as Chris and his wife, there seems small good in it. However, Miss Powell has made Chris far too simple-minded for the reader ever to be convinced of his existence. Since he has no true being, neither has the place of his origin and its code, and the result is a formless novel which lacks even the appearance of elemental life sometimes present in such work.

"Nether Applewhite" is subtitled "Strange Lives in an English Village." Unfortunately there is a decided hiatus between the lives and the village; that is to say, Mr. Vachell has written a "thriller" instead of "a story concerned with village life in our more remote rural districts." The village life and the mystery story—about the misbehavior and murder of an old hag—co-exist side by side, and there is no fusion to bestow significance on either.

"The Oppermanns" deals with the effects of the Nazi *Judennetze* on a Jewish family. The background is important here mainly because the cruelties of anti-Semitism arise from it. That the effects are as diastrous as they are is owing to a lack in real life which is the counterpart of the fictional defect in the novels mentioned above—persons not secured by much more than physical location in their background. It is a tribute to Herr Feuchtwanger's skill that the Jewish nature of his people (which in turn helps to make them more convincing as individuals) should be so evident, but at the same time it is probably a fault in his work as propaganda, since a feeling of actual conflict emerges from his pages which does not tend to make sympathetic characters who are so blind to its causes. The Oppermanns themselves, and their author, cannot credit a Nazi Germany with existence. While this peculiarity of vision has kept the book from being as judicious a commentary on its subject as it might have been, Herr Feuchtwanger's skill as a practised writer has made it an unusually readable novel.

GEOFFREY STONE.

## Understanding Essays

*Fish on Friday, by Leonard Feeney. New York: Sheed and Ward.* $1.50.

IN "FISH ON FRIDAY" Father Feeney demonstrates that a Catholic and a priest can enjoy life with what he calls a "Catholic" sense of humor. The priest, more than a member of any other profession, understands human nature profoundly, and when this is coupled with literary ability, wittily and tolerantly presented, the product is truly delightful. He loathes the wisecrack, "a bogus form of humor"; his own he derives from a study of human nature, "with all its absurdities, scruples and superstitions."

The locale of his essays varies widely, ranging over the European Continent and this country. In "Skheenarinka," an afternoon spent in an Irish schoolhouse, he presents an exposition of the Faith and what it means to Irishmen which, with the sketch, "Little Slipper Street," are the best of the collection. His contacts with non-Catholics are marked with tolerance and comprehension. This choice of the Catholic Book Club is to be hearily recommended.

JOHN SHERRY.

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## Briefer Mention

*Germany's Default: The Economics of Hitlerism, by Paul Einzig. New York: The Macmillan Company.* $3.00.

DR. EINZIG, a reputable British economist, devotes his little book to proving that while the attitude of German bankers toward their nation's debts was thoroughly honest and above-board up to the time of Hitler's accession, it has since become unreasonable and unfair. The difficulty about such arguments is that they tend to get out of date before the books in which they can be presented are off the press. One thinks such a change of spirit as Dr. Einzig indicates entirely probable. But the facts as presented do not show that another German government could have done much better, granted the same financial and fiscal conditions which now obtain in the Reich.

*The Third Son, by Margaret Culkin Banning. New York: Harper and Brothers.* $2.00.

THE INGREDIENTS of Mrs. Banning's latest novel are these: the young man and the young woman who meet through the agency of a stalled automobile; their meeting again under different circumstances; their realization that they are in love; their being parted through a misunderstanding; the spiritual growth of each in the hardship of financial vicissitude (the contemporaneous note); their chance meeting; moonlight and roses. Mrs. Banning mixes these with the judicious hand of the annual novelist, never brings them to a boil, and avoids such unpopular spices as introspection, subtle characterization, intellectual problems, an involved style and any reference to reality. The result can be consumed quickly and will cause no distress. Like all dishes of this sort, it is without decided flavor and cannot be recommended to those in search of substantial nourishment.

## CONTRIBUTORS

ALFRED J. BARRETT, S. J., is professor of English at Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y., and a member of the staff of the *Canisius Quarterly*.

REV. JOSEPH F. THORNING, S. J., chairman of the Europe Committee of the Catholic Association for International Peace, is professor of sociology and acting dean of the Graduate School of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. He is the author of "Religious Liberty in Transition," "Security, Old and New" and other books.

CHARLES WILLIS THOMPSON is a veteran political correspondent for New York journals. His latest book is "Presidents I've Known and Two Near Presidents."

KARL SCHAEZLER, critic of music, resides in Munich, Germany, and in a member of the staff of *Hochland*. The accompanying article was translated by George N. Shuster.

J. CORSON MILLER is the author of "Veils of Samite and Other Poems."

JOSEPH REMENYI is professor of comparative literature at Cleveland College, Western Reserve University, and a contributor to several European magazines.

JOHN T. COLLINS, S. J., is studying at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Kans.

RT. REV. MGR. JOHN A. RYAN is professor of moral theology and industrial ethics in the Catholic University of America, and director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. He is the author of "A Living Wage" and "Social Reconstruction."

ARPAD STEINER is professor of romance languages in Hunter College, New York City.

REV. EDGAR SCHMIEDELER, O.S.B., is director of the Rural Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

GEOFFREY STONE is a writer of criticism for newspapers and reviews.

JOHN SHERRY is on the New York *Tribune* staff of reviewers.

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which is the whole New Testament in one volume, the right hand pages throughout devoted to Notes, which face the text they concern (940 pages—$1.50).

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have been widely adopted. And it is to us very sobering to realize how many college classes are learning the relation of doctrines to one another and to life from

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Y is more and more haunted by the feeling that Christian Sex Morality is a hindrance to a full and free self-development.

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may startle him. It speaks freely, but with none of that air of being lost in admiration of its own frankness which disfigures so much of the big-brother morality-is-hygienic stuff that gets itself written, published and perhaps even read.

Z thinks that the world is in a hopeless way and wonders if Communism is not worth at least a trial.

**Nicolas Berdyaev's**
**THE END OF OUR TIME ($2.25)**

does not, like some of his elders, bellow at him. The book is sympathetic and absolutely damning.

A is worried about the origins of the religious instinct in humanity, and fears that a study of pre-historic Man might explode the whole thing. Fraser's *Golden Bough* may have crossed his path.

**Dawson's AGE OF THE GODS ($3.00)**

is a book on Prehistoric Man which tells what is really known.

B has read Wells's *Outline of History*. Belloc has written a Companion to it which is something less than companionable ($1.25).

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**Ross Hoffman's RESTORATION ($1.50)**

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